

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
For the Revised  
**Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan**  
**Kansas Training Center**  
**Salina, Kansas**



Prepared for:  
Kansas Adjutant General's Department  
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19 December 2018

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## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ORGANIZATION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the potential environmental, socioeconomic, and cultural effects of the implementation of the revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan at the Kansas Training Center in Salina, Kansas. The Proposed Action would carry out a coordinated and integrated program to provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources at the Kansas Training Center. Implementation of the program elements of the revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan will support the Kansas Army National Guard's continuing requirement to ensure the safety and efficiency of the mission at Kansas Training Center, practice sound resource stewardship, and comply with environmental policies and regulations.

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 USC 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and 32 CFR Part 651 (*Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*, Final Rule), the potential effects of the Proposed Action are analyzed. This EA will facilitate the decision process by the Kansas Army National Guard regarding the Proposed Action and its considered alternatives, and is organized as follows:

- **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** Describes the Proposed Action and its considered alternatives; summarizes environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic consequences; and compares potential effects associated with the considered alternatives, including the No Action Alternative.
- **SECTION 1 PURPOSE, NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION:** Summarizes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, provides relevant background information, and describes the scope of the EA.
- **SECTION 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:** Describes the Proposed Action. Presents alternatives for implementing the Proposed Action, including applied screening criteria and alternatives retained for further analysis.
- **SECTION 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT:** Describes relevant components of the existing environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic setting (within the Region of Influence [ROI]) of the considered alternatives.
- **SECTION 4 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES:** Identifies individual and cumulative potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic effects of implementing the considered alternatives; and identifies proposed mitigation and management measures, as and where appropriate.
- **SECTION 5 COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES AND CONCLUSIONS:** Compares the environmental effects of the considered alternatives and summarizes the significance of potential individual and cumulative effects from these alternatives.
- **SECTION 6 REFERENCES:** Provides bibliographical information for cited sources.
- **SECTION 7 GLOSSARY:** Provides a list of definitions for technical terms used.
- **SECTION 8 LIST OF PREPARERS:** Identifies document preparers and their areas of expertise.
- **SECTION 9 AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS CONSULTED:** Lists agencies and individuals consulted during the preparation of this EA.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SIGNATURE PAGE**

LEAD AGENCY: Army National Guard (ARNG)

COOPERATING AGENCIES: None

TITLE OF PROPOSED ACTION: Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan

AFFECTED JURISDICTION: Kansas Training Center – Saline County, Kansas

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**ABSTRACT:** The KSARNG proposes implementation of the recently-revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan at the Kansas Training Center in Salina, Kansas. This Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses the potential environmental, socioeconomic, and cultural impacts of this proposal and its alternatives. The Proposed Action is necessary to carry out a coordinated and integrated program to provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources at the Kansas Training Center.

This EA evaluates the individual and cumulative effects of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative with respect to the following criteria: geographic setting and land use, air quality, noise, geology, soils, topography, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomic environment, infrastructure and hazardous and toxic materials/wastes.

The evaluation performed in this EA concludes that there would be no significant adverse impact, either individually or cumulatively, to the local environment or quality of life associated with the implementation of the Proposed Action.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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### *Proposed Action*

The Proposed Action entails assessment and approval of the Kansas Army National Guard Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for the area encompassed by the Kansas Training Center in Salina, Saline County, Kansas. The Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan provides Kansas Army National Guard and visiting personnel with a description of the Kansas Training Center (such as location, history, and mission), information about the surrounding physical and biotic environment, and an assessment of the impacts to natural resources resulting from mission activities. This Environmental Assessment addresses the Kansas Army National Guard's proposal to implement the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan for the Kansas Regional Training Center.

### *Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action*

The purpose of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan revision (Proposed Action) is to carry out a coordinated and integrated program to provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources at the Kansas Training Center. Implementation of the program elements of the revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan will support the Kansas Army National Guard's continuing requirement to ensure the safety and efficiency of the mission at Kansas Training Center, practice sound resource stewardship, and comply with environmental policies and regulations. The revision is needed due to the relocation of two firing ranges, as well as the expansion of a third firing range; the revisions are also intended to cover increased Blackhawk helicopter use on site.

### *Alternatives*

The following criteria were used to screen potential alternatives and determine if they were reasonable in fulfilling the purpose and need, and appropriate for detailed analysis in this Programmatic EA:

1. Will the alternative provide KSARNG's natural resource personnel with an updated baseline description of the KSTC and its surrounding environment?

2. Will the alternative present practical options and management activities consistent with KSARNG's training mission and provide for the management and stewardship of natural resources to promote conservation, enhancement, and sustainability of existing ecosystems within the KSTC?
3. Will the alternative be compliant with the SAIA and related DoA guidance, which requires cooperating partners to review the existing INRMP at least once every five years for operation and effect?

Applying the screening criteria, no reasonable alternative to the preparation of a "new" compliant Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan that meets the purpose and need for the action has been identified for detailed analysis in this Environmental Assessment. The No Action Alternative, continue to operate under the non-compliant outdated 2011 Plan, has been analyzed as required by NEPA and its implementing regulations.

### *Affected Environment*

The Kansas Training Center is located in southwestern Saline County, approximately 12 miles southwest of the city of Salina. Covering approximately 3,560 acres, the Kansas Training Center occupies all or parts of Sections 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, and 33, Township 15 South, Range 4 West. The training center is located in the northeast corner of the Smoky Hill Army National Guard Range, which is owned by the federal government and licensed to the Kansas Army National Guard for training and support.

Prior to the 1800s, the Saline County area was principally inhabited by the Plains Comanche, Kansa, Pawnee, Wichita, and Cheyenne tribes. Settlers began to arrive in the Saline County area in the late 1850s; Swedish and African American families began to settle in the vicinity of the Kansas Training Center at that time. Upon the onset of World War II, Camp Phillips was established, displacing many of the original settlers of the area. Camp Phillips housed 45,000 troops, but was decommissioned in October 1944.

### *Environmental Consequences*

The Proposed Action was evaluated to determine its potential direct or indirect impact(s) on the physical, environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic aspects of the Proposed Action and the surrounding area. Technical areas evaluated include: land use and cover; air quality; noise; topography, geology, and soils; water resources; biological resources; cultural resources; socioeconomics; environmental justice; infrastructure and hazardous and toxic materials and

waste (HTMW). The Preferred Action Alternative and No Action Alternative would result in the impacts identified throughout Section 4 and summarized in **Table ES-1**.

<b>Table ES-1: Alternative Comparison Matrix</b>		
<b>Technical Resource Area</b>	<b>No Action Alternative</b>	<b>Preferred Action Alternative</b>
<b>Land Use</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action.	No short-term impacts to land use were identified, because land use will not be immediately impacted by Proposed Action. Long-term positive impact through programmatic monitoring and Best Management Practices described in INRMP.
<b>Air Quality</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action. On-going operations emissions would continue.	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action, as current operations emissions would continue.
<b>Noise</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action.	No short- or long-term impacts to noise are anticipated, as the Proposed Action would not result in increased traffic.
<b>Geology, Topography, and Soils</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action.	No short-term impacts to geology, topography, or soils were identified, because these attributes would not be immediately impacted by Proposed Action. Long-term positive impact through programmatic monitoring and Best Management Practices described in INRMP.
<b>Water Resources</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action.	No short-term impacts to water resources, as the Proposed Action does not directly affect water resources; long-term positive impacts achieved through programmatic monitoring and Best Management Practices described in INRMP.
<b>Biological Resources</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action.	No short-term impacts to biological impacts, as monitoring and evaluating habitat would not lead to short-term impacts. Long-term positive impact through programmatic monitoring and Best Management Practices described in INRMP.
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action.	No short- or long-term impacts resulting from Proposed Action, as culturally-significant resources were not evaluated in the project area.

*Best Management Practices*

The Preferred Action Alternative, implementation of the revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, would entail putting into practice numerous Best Management Practices for the protection of natural resources on and around the Kansas Training Center. These Best Management Practices are outlined in Sections 4.2.1 and 4.11 of this document, and are further detailed in Chapter 8 of the 2018 Integrated Natural Resources Management plan.

*Public and Agency Involvement*

The preparation of the proposed Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and this Environmental Assessment will be coordinated with the public, federal, state and local agencies, and Native American Tribes upon review of the Environmental Assessment by the National Guard Bureau.

*Conclusions*

The Proposed Action would implement management of natural resources within the context of an approved natural resources management plan to maintain and improve the ecological integrity of Installation lands in order to accommodate continued military training with minimal restrictions. The Proposed Action would not result in significant adverse environmental effects, and mitigation measures would not be required. The Proposed Action is the Kansas Army National Guard's preferred alternative. A Finding of No Significant Impact is appropriate.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED INTEGRATED  
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN  
AT  
KANSAS TRAINING CENTER  
SALINA, KANSAS**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

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AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act
AR	Army Regulation
ARNG	Army National Guard
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
BCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
BGS	Below Ground Surface
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CAA	Clean Air Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COC	Contaminants of Concern
CWA	Clean Water Act
DNT	Dinitrotoluene
DoA	Department of Army
DoD	Department of Defense
DoDI	Department of Defense Instruction
DoI	Department of the Interior
EA	Environmental Assessment
EBS	Environmental Baseline Survey
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ENMP	Environmental Noise Management Plan
EO	Executive Order
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FARP	Forward Arming and Refueling Point
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Authority
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FNSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
FY	Fiscal Year
HMX	Cyclotetramethylenetetranitramine
HTMW	Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes
ICRMP	Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan
IICEP	Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
IPMP	Integrated Pest Management Plan
KBS	Kansas Biological Survey
KDHE	Kansas Department of Health and Environment
KDWPT	Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism

KSARNG	Kansas Army National Guard
KSTC	Kansas Training Center
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MFR	Memorandum for Record
mg/L	Milligrams per liter
MW	Monitoring Well
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAC	Native American Consultation
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended
NG	Nitroglycerin
NGB	National Guard Bureau
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended
NOI	Notice of Intent
NRCS	National Resources Conservation Service
ORAP	Operational Range Assessment Program
PETN	Pentaerythritoltetranitrate
RDX	Cyclotrimethylenetrinitramine
SAIA	Sikes Act Improvement Act
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SINC	Species In Need of Conservation
TNT	Trinitrotoluene
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	U.S. Code
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

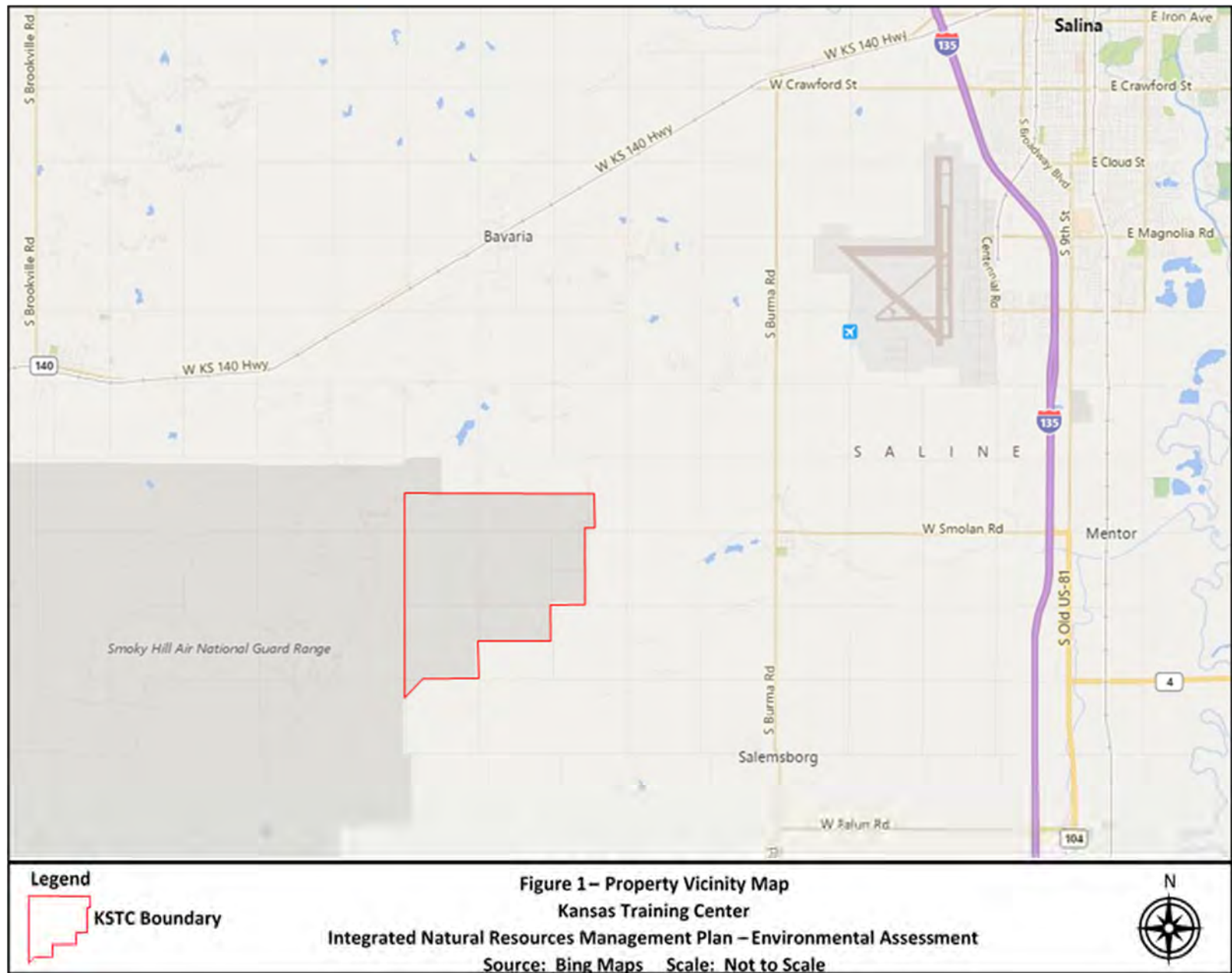
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### 1.1 Introduction

The Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) has revised the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the area encompassed by the Kansas Training Center (KSTC; also referred to in this document as the ‘Installation’) in Salina, Saline County, Kansas. The INRMP provides KSARNG and visiting personnel with a description of the KSTC (e.g., location, history, and mission), information about the surrounding physical and biotic environment, and an assessment of the impacts to natural resources resulting from adoption of the updated INRMP (see **Figure 1** on the following page for the location of the KSTC). Furthermore, in compliance with federal, state, and local standards, the INRMP outlines various management practices designed to manage impacts and to enhance the positive effects of the Installation’s mission on local ecosystems. The revised INRMP is a Proposed Action that requires review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Army Regulation (AR) 200-1 *Environmental Effects of Army Actions* prior to implementation of its projects, objectives, and goals.

The initial implementation of the revised INRMP requires preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with NEPA requirements, with topics related to the effects of the proposed plan on natural and cultural resources. As such, this EA has been drafted to evaluate the environmental, cultural, and social impacts associated with the proposed management plan, pursuant to the NEPA requirements (42 U.S. Code [USC] 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651; as well as the Army National Guard (ARNG) NEPA Handbook – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA* (2011).

This EA analyzes and documents environmental effects associated with the Proposed Action, revisions to the KSTC INRMP, last dated 2011. It intends to promote public participation and provide input into the decision-making process of the Proposed Action. The EA presents information on the Proposed Action, its alternatives, a description of the affected environment, and an analysis of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts. Based on this information, KSARNG expects to minimize adverse environmental impacts resulting from implementation of the revised INRMP.



All persons and organizations having a potential interest in the Proposed Action, including Native American groups, and minority, low income or disadvantaged individuals are urged to participate in the decision making process.

The preparation of this EA was coordinated with appropriate Federal, State and local agencies. Copies of agency correspondence are provided in **Appendix A**. In addition, agency and public input will be obtained during a public comment period. The public comment period will be held following completion of the EA.

## 1.2 Purpose and Need

The goal of the ARNG's environmental programs and policies is conserving the environment for mission sustainability (Department of Defense [DoD] Memorandum 4715.03 November 25, 2013). The revised INRMP is intended for use by the National Guard Bureau (NGB), the KSARNG, and the KSTC range control personnel as the primary tool for managing natural resources at the KSTC, in accordance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 32, Part 651 – Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651, 2002) and the provisions of the Sikes Act Improvement Act (SAIA).

Management practices identified in this INRMP have been developed to enhance and maintain biological diversity within the Installation's boundary while providing connectivity the KSTC ecosystem. Specifically, management practices strive to do the following:

1. Set forth management that will maintain and enhance natural resources on KSTC that are needed to support the mission of the KSARNG.
2. Minimize habitat fragmentation and promote the natural pattern and connectivity of habitats.
3. Protect native species and discourage non-native, exotic species.
4. Protect rare and ecologically important species.
5. Protect unique or sensitive environments.
6. Maintain or mimic natural processes.
7. Protect genetic diversity.
8. Rehabilitate ecosystems, communities, and species.
9. Monitor biodiversity impacts.

The purpose of the INRMP revisions (Proposed Action) is to carry out a coordinated and integrated program to provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources at the

KSTC. Implementation of the program elements of the revised INRMP will support the KSARNG's continuing requirement to ensure the safety and efficiency of the mission at KSTC, practice sound resource stewardship, and comply with environmental policies and regulations. The need for the Proposed Action is to: (1) Execute the revised INRMP to satisfy statutory and regulatory requirements, such as the SAIA (16 USC §670a *et seq*), AR 200-1 – Environmental Protection and Enhancement, and Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 4715.03 – Environmental Conservation Program; and, (2) ensure that natural resource compliance and conservation is maintained while reaching training goals needed to meet mission essential requirements.

### 1.3 Scope of the EA

The purpose of this EA is to inform decision-makers and the public of the likely environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives, and to solicit input from the public and regulators concerning implementation of the revised INRMP. This EA includes evaluation of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts to resources that could result from training practices at the KSTC. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 United States Code [USC] 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), 32 CFR Part 651 (Environmental Analysis of Army Actions, Final Rule; 29 March 2002), and the ARNG NEPA Handbook, the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative physical, environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic effects of this federal Proposed Action are analyzed in this EA.

The outline and content of this EA have been prepared in accordance with the guidelines provided in the ARNG publication *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969* (ARNG NEPA Handbook). This EA considers the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts from implementation of the Proposed Action. The scope of this EA includes descriptions and evaluation of two alternatives, summarized as follows:

Alternative 1: Proposed Action – Implement the revised INRMP.

Alternative 2: No Action Alternative – Continue with operations as currently conducted; maintain the status-quo and do not implement the revised INRMP.

A detailed description of the Proposed Action is presented in **Section 2.2**. A description of the No Action Alternative, as well as a description of the alternative eliminated from detailed analysis, is provided in **Section 2.3**.

An interdisciplinary team of environmental scientists, planners, engineers, archaeologists, historians, biologists and military technicians has reviewed the Proposed Action in consideration of existing conditions and has identified potential beneficial and adverse effects associated with the project. Potential environmental impacts to the following areas are addressed in the scope of this EA: land use, air quality, noise, geology, topography, soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, environmental justice, infrastructure, and hazardous and toxic materials/wastes. However, a precursory look at some of the aforementioned resources indicated that, due to the resources not being present or not likely to be impacted through implementation of the alternatives, several environmental impact categories did not require further analysis. These resources include socioeconomics, environmental justice, infrastructure, and hazardous and toxic material and waste, which are discussed in the following paragraphs.

#### *Socioeconomics*

Residential dwellings are not located in close proximity to the KSTC. The closest surrounding residential dwellings are located approximately 0.30 to 0.70 mile from the KSTC property boundary, located on the south, southeast, and east sides of the KSTC property. These residences are rural in nature and appear to be utilized for agricultural purposes.

The Proposed Action is located in Census Tract 12 of Saline County, Kansas. According to information provided by the US Census Bureau, in 2011, 97.12 percent of Census Tract 12 was comprised of Caucasian individuals; this percentage remained in the most recent Census data for Tract 12, compiled in 2016. Additionally, in 2011, the median household income for Census Tract 12 was \$56,167; in 2016, the median household income was \$61,176. Because the socioeconomic conditions in Census Tract 12 have remained relatively similar to those in 2011, further analysis of socioeconomic data has been omitted from this assessment.

#### *Environmental Justice*

Executive Order (EO) 12898: Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations (February 11, 1994) requires that an analysis be made to assess whether the Proposed Action or its alternatives would have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations. As the Proposed Action is not expected to impact socioeconomic or economic conditions, a detailed analysis of environmental justice was not conducted.

## *Infrastructure*

### Roadways

Multiple roadways provide access to the KSTC, including McReynolds Road, Parsons Road, and Smolan Road as east-west roadways, as well as Englund Road, Hohneck Road, Hedville/Forsee Road, and Cooley Road as north-south roadways. All roadways at the KSTC are non-paved, comprised of compacted soil and gravel. Ditches exist along all roads at the Installation. No roadways would be impacted by the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative.

### Utilities

The KSTC is serviced by electric, water, fiber optic cable, and wastewater utilities, and uses non-potable ground water from one well for irrigation. No utilities would be impacted by the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative.

## *Hazardous and Toxic Waste and Materials*

According to an Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) conducted for the KSTC in 2015, no hazardous materials are currently being stored or disposed of on the KSTC. However, the ORAP Report identified historic and surrounding uses that could contribute to past or current releases of hazardous substances on the Property. According to ORAP Report, historic munitions use and ranges on the Property and surrounding areas are potential sources for contaminants of concern (COC), including cyclotetramethylenetetranitramine (HMX), trinitrotoluene (TNT); cyclotrimethylenetrinitramine (RDX), 2,4- dinitrotolulene (DNT), 2,6-DNT; pentaerythritol-tetranitrate (PETN), antimony, copper, lead, zinc, nitroglycerin (NG), and perchlorate. The Historical Range Areas map from the ORAP report illustrates that the KSTC is located in an area of historic pistol and landscape ranges.

According to personal interviews and the ORAP Report, the previously discussed five monitoring wells (MW-1 through MW-5) were placed on the KSTC property to establish baseline data for heavy metals and pesticides. The 2004 baseline data from the monitoring wells indicated elevated lead levels above Kansas state action levels of 0.015 milligram per liter (mg/L). A monitoring well (MW-3) located on the southwest adjacent property had lead levels of 0.259 mg/L (ORAP Report, 2008).

As the Proposed Action is not expected to impact hazardous waste at the KSTC, a detailed analysis was not conducted.

#### 1.4 Decision-making

As described in 32 CFR Part 651.5, the NEPA process is intended to provide the KSARNG planners and decision-makers with a meaningful review of environmental considerations associated with a given action. The analysis set forth in this EA allows the decision-makers to carefully balance the protection of these environmental resources while fulfilling the Army's essential role, including national defense. Both environmental staff and military personnel within the KSARNG were consulted and provided guidance on the development of this EA.

Per amendments to 10 USC §10501, described in DoD Directive 5105.77, the NGB is a joint activity of the DoD (DoD 2015). NGB serves as a channel of communication and funding between the U.S. Army and state ARNG organizations in the 54 U.S. states, territories, and the District of Columbia. The ARNG is a Directorate within NGB. The ARNG's Installation and Environment Directorate (ARNG I&E) is the division within ARNG that is responsible for environmental matters, including compliance with NEPA.

The revised INRMP integrates sound natural resources management with the training mission of the KSARNG. The INRMP is intended to be the primary tool for managing the complex association of soil, water, and vegetation as an integral component for the successful accomplishment of the military mission of the KSARNG at the KSTC. If this EA determines that the Proposed Action would result in significant impacts, the KSARNG could determine appropriate measures to reduce impacts to a level below significant, issue a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), or abandon the Proposed Action. The KSARNG may identify additional areas in which mitigation measures would be applicable in supporting the NGB's environmental stewardship responsibilities. The decision to proceed with development of the Proposed Action would be based on strategic, operational, environmental and other considerations, including the results of this EA.

#### 1.5 Public and Agency Involvement

Examination of the views and recommendations of all interested persons enables better decision making. As such, the ARNG encourages public participation in the NEPA process. In accordance with both the Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP) and Native American Consultation (NAC) processes, all agencies, organizations, federally recognized Native American Tribes and members of the public having an interest in the Proposed

Action are invited to participate in the decision-making process. Environmental compliance documents 40 CFR §1506.6, 32 CFR §651.47 and Section 2.3.1 of the 2011 ARNG NEPA Handbook were reviewed to ensure that they identify and coordinate with, all agencies, organizations and individuals that may be interested in or affected by this proposal.

Information request letters have been mailed to government agencies, organizations, and Native American Tribes to obtain information concerning the revised INRMP and to identify potential issues. A summary of agencies and individuals to be consulted is presented in **Section 9.0** of this document; agency responses are located in **Appendix A**. It should be noted that multiple letters (dated 27 December 2017, 14 August 2018, and 17 September 2018) were sent to the Native American Tribes in accordance with the 2011 ARNG NEPA Handbook, as responses were not received following the initial coordination.

The 2012 SAIA requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWPT) to jointly review existing INRMPs for operation and effect at least once every five years. This joint review evaluates the implementation and effectiveness of the INRMP and whether KSARNG should continue following the INRMP or whether it should revise the INRMP to reflect changes in mission, goals, or objectives in regard to conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on KSTC.

Public participation in the preparation of this EA is guided by 32 CFR Part 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*. The Final EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) would be made available for a 30-day comment period. The KSARNG would consider any further comments submitted by agencies, organizations, or members of the public. Once the final review period is completed, the KSARNG would, if appropriate, execute the FNSI and implement the Proposed Action.

## 1.6 Related NEPA, Environmental, and Other Documents and Processes

Development and implementation of the INRMP is guided by the SAIA and supported by the Army's implementing guidance on INRMP requirements in Army Regulation 200-1 (Environmental Protection and Enhancement). Environmental analysis of the Proposed Action is mandated by NEPA and the Army's implementing regulations at 32 CFR Part 651 (Environmental Analysis of Army Actions).

Various other DoD, DoA, and NGB documents provide additional guidance for INRMP coordination and implementation. The primary guidance documents are: DoD Manual, Number 4715.03 (Nov 2013), INRMP Implementation Manual; DoD Instruction, Number 4715.03 (March

2011), Natural Resources Conservation Manual; and NGB Army National Guard Guidance for Creation, Implementation, Review, Revision, and Update of INRMPs (April 2012).

## 1.7 Regulatory Framework

Numerous planning and NEPA documents, integrated management plans, and other relevant environmental studies and reports related to this Proposed Action have been reviewed and/or referenced in the preparation of this EA. These various reports and documents are listed in **Appendix A**. Additionally, during the development of the INRMP, the following resources were utilized:

- The SAIA, as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, codified at 16 USC 670a et seq.
- The Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2004, codified at 16 USC 1533(b)(2) and 1533 (a)(3)(b).
- AR 200-1, *Environmental Protection and Enhancement*, 13 December 2007.
- Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4715.03, Natural Resources Conservation Program, 18 March 2011.
- Department of Defense Memorandum, *Updated Guidance for Implementation of the Sikes Act Improvement Act*, 10 October 2002.
- Department of Defense Memorandum, *Updated Guidance for Implementation of the Sikes Act Improvement Act – Supplemental Guidance Concerning INRMP Reviews*, 1 November 2004.
- Department of the Army (DoA) Memorandum, *Guidance for Implementation of the Sikes Act Improvement Act*, 25 May 2006.
- Army National Guard Memorandum, *Guidance for the Creation, Implementation, Review, and Revision and Update of Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans* (9 April 2012).

## 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

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### 2.1 Introduction

The name of this project is the INRMP for the KSTC. INRMPs are classified into one of four phases (DoD, 2013):

1. Compliant INRMP - An INRMP that has been both approved in writing, and reviewed, within the past five years, as to the operation and effect, by authorized officials of the DoD (e.g., NGB), Department of the Interior (DOI) (e.g., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]), and each appropriate state fish and wildlife agency (e.g., Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism [KDWPT]).
2. Review for Operation and Effect - A comprehensive, joint review by the parties to the INRMP, conducted no less often than every five years, to determine whether the plan needs an update or revision to continue to adequately address SAIA purposes and requirements.
3. INRMP Update - Any change to an INRMP that, if implemented, is not expected to result in consequences materially different from those in the existing INRMP and analyzed in an existing NEPA document. Such changes will not result in a significant environmental impact, and installations are not required to invite the public to review or to comment on the decision to continue implementing the updated INRMP.
4. INRMP Revision - Any change to an INRMP that, if implemented, may result in a significant environmental impact, including those not anticipated by the parties to the INRMP when the plan was last approved and/or reviewed as to operation and effect. All such revisions require approval by all parties to the INRMP, and will require a new or supplemental NEPA analysis.

The KSTC has an INRMP, updated in 2011, that is compliant with the SAIA. However, since the time of the 2011 INRMP, acreage has been added to the KTC, and changes in the military training mission at the KSTC include the addition of Forward Arming and Refueling Point (FARP) training, mounted navigation (convoy) training, expansion of one firing range, relocation of two smaller firing ranges, and increased training at Crisis City at the Installation. As such, revisions to the 2011 INRMP were required.

The Proposed Action is to approve and implement a revised INRMP for the KSTC. The revised INRMP provides a comprehensive overview of KSTC's natural resources, and establishes goals, objectives, strategies, projects, and best management practices for the management of natural resources that are consistent with the military mission, which is the training of soldiers. Specific projects are identified to accomplish the objectives of the INRMP for a five-year period.

## 2.2 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to approve and implement the revised INRMP at KSTC, which collectively includes numerous tasks for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 through FY 2024, which are detailed in **Table 1** and in **Appendix C**, which includes Chapter 8, Management Goals and Objectives of the INRMP. This INRMP is a revision to the existing INRMP adopted in 2011 and is consistent with the military use of the KSTC and the requirements of the Sikes Act.

The INRMP provides a strategy of planned projects and programs to integrate the entirety of the KSTC's natural resource program with ongoing mission activities, allows for identification of potential conflicts between the KSTC's mission and natural resources, and identifies compliance actions necessary to maintain the availability of mission-essential properties and acreage. In accordance with the SAIA (16 USC §670a *et seq*), INRMPs are updated annually and revised every five years. Tasks comprising the Proposed Action fall under 10 program areas for the KSTC: Fish and Wildlife Management; Threatened and Endangered Species Management; Wetlands, Streams, and Deep Water Habitat Management; Prairie and Woodland Management; Migratory Bird Management and, Invasive Species Management; Land Management; Agricultural Out-Leasing; and Public Outreach and Training. The sections below summarize the focus of each program area and identify which program areas will change with implementation of the Proposed Action. A complete Project Implementation schedule is included in **Table 1**.

### 2.2.1 Fish and Wildlife Management

The variety of wildlife habitats present at the KSTC, such as wetlands, woodlands, and grasslands, contributes to the diversity of wildlife species found on the Installation. Through implementation of the proposed action, KSARNG maintains balanced wildlife populations without impacting the training mission at KSTC. Balanced wildlife populations contribute to the health and sustainability of the KSTC environment through natural control of pests and invasive species and through soil and vegetative productivity. Goals and projects have been developed specifically for wildlife management at KSTC and are listed in **Appendix C** of this EA, which includes Chapter 8 of the INRMP. A complete Project Implementation schedule is included in **Table 1**.

### *2.2.2 Threatened and Endangered Species Management*

Protection and conservation of threatened and endangered species is a primary goal of natural resources management at KSTC. Goals and projects have been developed specifically for threatened and endangered species at the KSTC and are listed in **Appendix C** of this EA, which includes Chapter 8.2 of the INRMP. The goals for threatened and endangered species at the KSTC includes comprehensive management actions to conserve and support listed species and their habitat. These projects include adaptive management strategies to conserve and improve site conditions for threatened and endangered species while also maintaining the military training mission.

### *2.2.3 Wetlands, Streams, and Deep Water Management*

Wetlands, streams, and deep water habitats are important for providing habitat for many species. Through implementation of the INRMP, KSARNG strives to conserve healthy, functional wetlands that can sustain minor operational influences or impacts. The INRMP contains goals to enhance wetland and deep water functions that maximize the water quality values of wetlands and ponds. Through the INRMP, the KSARNG aims to have no net loss to the function and value of wetlands and deep water habitats existing at KSTC. Goals and objectives for wetlands, streams, and deep water habitat management are listed **Appendix C** of this EA, which includes Chapter 8.3 of the INRMP.

### *2.2.4 Prairie and Woodland Management*

Through the KSTC INRMP, KSARNG strives to enhance and maintain native prairie and woodland habitat. Prairie and woodland management activities at the KSTC are conducted to maintain native habitat that promotes wildlife as well as supports the military training mission. The adaptive ecosystem approach included in the INRMP manages these areas primarily through habitat modifications. Goals and objectives are outlined in **Appendix C** of this EA, which includes Chapter 8.4 of the INRMP.

### *2.2.5 Migratory Bird Management*

KSTC strives to implement cooperative projects and programs described in the INRMP to benefit the health and well-being of migratory birds and their habitats. The KSARNG has been conducting avian surveys at the KSTC since 2012 and has developed a database of bird populations. In continual evaluation of bird population trends, the KSCTC INRMP will continue avian surveys

while also using existing resources. Goals and objectives in support of Migratory Birds are outlined in **Appendix C** of this EA, which includes Chapter 8.5 of the INRMP.

#### *2.2.6 Invasive Species Management*

Invasive species have the potential to directly impact installation plans, programs, and training by through the spread of invasive, non-native vegetation, and non-native animal species. Invasive species upset the balance of the natural environment of the KSTC, creating inhospitable environments for training, disrupting natural resource management, and potentially allowing vectors of disease. The KSARNG will control invasive species at the KSTC using an ecosystem-based approach as outlined in **Appendix C** of this EA, which includes Chapter 8.6 of the INRMP.

#### *2.2.7 Land Management*

Through the KSTC INRMP, KSARNG manages the lands of the KSTC in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the Sikes Act and completes actions that enhance and balance the physical (soil and water) and biological (plant and animal) communities at the Installation. Specific land management goals and projects are outlined in **Appendix C** of this EA, which includes Chapter 8.7 of the INRMP.

#### *2.2.8 Agricultural Out-Leasing*

The KSTC contains agricultural out leases to private individuals for cattle grazing and hay production. Chapter 8.8 of the INRMP (included in **Appendix C**) contains management goals and objectives that have been developed to ensure that agricultural activities remain productive and sustainable while providing beneficial ecosystem results. Leases must be managed to ensure that noxious weeds are controlled and that no significant alteration of the ecosystem occurs.

#### *2.2.9 Public Outreach*

Public outreach and recreational activities on KSTC are subject to safety requirements and military security. At KSTC, recreational activities such as hunting and fishing are available. Specific goals and objectives to support public outreach are described in **Appendix C** of this EA, which includes Chapter 8.9 of the INRMP.

#### *2.2.10 Training*

The KSTC INRMP was developed using an interdisciplinary approach in which a broad range of professional collaborated to develop goals and projects the supports the mission while enhancing

the environment. Ensuring these professionals and new employees are adequately trained is vital to ensuring the INRMP at KSTC remains a living document. Specific training goals and objectives are listed in **Appendix C** of this EA, which includes Chapter 8.10 of the INRMP.

### *2.2.11 Project Schedule and Implementation*

The KSTC INRMP contains a list of proposed projects and an implementation schedule (**Table 1**). The KSARNG meets annually with internal stakeholders (ITAM, Facilities, Environmental, etc.) and external stakeholders (USFWS, KDWPT) to review INRMP projects, analyze new requirements, and to review the effectiveness of the INRMP. The list of projects and INRMP Implementation Schedule is updated annually to reflect the outcome of these meetings. All actions proposed in the KSTC INRMP are subject to the availability of funds properly authorized and appropriated under Federal law. All activities conducted in accordance with the INRMP would comply with applicable federal and state natural and cultural resources requirements and would be coordinated through the KSARNG Environmental Office.

<b>Table 1: INRMP Implementation Table</b>	
<b>Program Element</b>	<b>Project Period</b>
<i>Wildlife Management</i>	
Fish and Wildlife Planning-Level Surveys	<i>Continuous</i>
Review and Revise Fish and Wildlife Survey Protocols	<i>FY20</i>
Update Fish and Wildlife Surveys	<i>FY21</i>
Data Review/Management Program	<i>FY20</i>
Manage Balanced Fish Populations	<i>Continuous</i>
Develop a Wildlife Management Plan	<i>FY20</i>
Incorporate a T&E Management Plan into Wildlife Management Plan	<i>FY20</i>
Establish a Wildlife Database	<i>Continuous</i>
Develop Wildlife Database	<i>FY20</i>
Update Wildlife Database	<i>FY21, FY22, FY23, FY24</i>
Wildlife Data Communications to USFWS and KDWPT	<i>FY21, FY22, FY23, FY24</i>
<i>Threatened and Endangered Species of Concern</i>	
Identify Potential T&E Habitat in and Near KSTC	<i>Continuous</i>
T&E Species Survey and Habitat Evaluation	<i>FY20, FY21</i>
GIS Update with T&E Species	<i>FY20</i>
T&E Species Education Program	<i>FY23</i>
Conserve known T&E Species Habitat	<i>Continuous</i>
Identify/Map T&E Species Locations	<i>Continuous</i>
T&E Species Habitat Signage	<i>FY22</i>
Update GIS Database with T&E Species Information	<i>Continuous</i>
T&E Management Plan	<i>FY20</i>

Table 1: INRMP Implementation Table	
Program Element	Project Period
Protect SINC Species (Henslow's Sparrow) Nesting Areas	FY21
<i>Wetlands, Streams, and Deep Water Habitat</i>	
Wetland Inventory Update	FY 20
Wetland Monitoring and Maintenance	FY19
Pond Monitoring and Maintenance	FY20
Update Watershed Management Plan	FY22
<i>Prairie and Woodland Management</i>	
Vegetation Planning Level Survey	FY19
Conserve Prairie Habitat	Continuous
Mixed-Grass Prairie Restoration	FY22
Location, Density, and Succession of Riparian and Upland Trees	FY22
<i>Migratory Bird Management</i>	
Manage Migratory Bird Habitat to Meet Mission of KSARNG	FY21
Long-Term Coordinated Bird Monitoring	FY20-FY23
<i>Invasive Species Management</i>	
Locate and Identify Invasive Species at the KSTC	FY20
<i>Land Management</i>	
Static Rotation of Controlled Burns	Quarterly
Tallgrass Prairie Restoration	FY23
<i>Agricultural Out-Leasing</i>	
Manage Invasive Woody Vegetation	FY19 and FY23
<i>Public Outreach</i>	
Public Outreach Potential	Continuous
<i>Training of Natural Resource Personnel</i>	
Expanding the Knowledge of KSARNG Natural Resource Staff	Continuous

### 2.3 Alternatives Considered

NEPA, CEQ regulations and 32 CFR Part 651 requires Federal agencies to consider reasonable alternatives to a Proposed Action. The development and consideration of alternatives helps identify and avoid impacts while also identifying reasonable ways to achieve the stated purpose and need. An alternative must be considered reasonable to warrant detailed evaluation. The KSARNG planning process included extensive screening and has considered two alternatives: the No Action alternative and the Preferred Action alternative. This section discusses the development and screening of considered alternatives, addresses alternatives to the Proposed Action and describes the No Action.

### 2.3.1 Alternatives Development (Screening Criteria)

The following screening criteria were developed and applied to evaluate alternatives for meeting the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action:

4. Will the alternative provide KSARNG's natural resource personnel with an updated baseline description of the KSTC and its surrounding environment?
5. Will the alternative present practical options and management activities consistent with KSARNG's training mission and provide for the management and stewardship of natural resources to promote conservation, enhancement, and sustainability of existing ecosystems within the KSTC?
6. Will the alternative be compliant with the SAIA and related DoA guidance, which requires cooperating partners to review the existing INRMP at least once every five years for operation and effect?

Table 2: Screening Criteria Comparison Matrix		
Screening Criteria	No Action Alternative	Preferred Action Alternative (Revise 2011 INRMP)
Update baseline description of KSTC and its surrounding environment	No	Yes
Provide options for management and stewardship of natural resources	Yes	Yes
Compliant with SAIA.	No	Yes

### 2.3.2 *Evaluated Alternatives*

Applying the screening criteria, no reasonable alternative to the updating of the 2011 INRMP has been identified for detailed analysis in this EA. As such, only the No Action Alternative and Preferred Action Alternative (to revise the 2011 INRMP) will be evaluated throughout the remainder of this document.

#### No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, natural resource management would continue under the outdated 2011 INRMP. This alternative has been analyzed as required by NEPA and its implementing regulations. The 2011 INRMP does not address changes in the operations for the military training mission at the KSTC, including the addition of FARP training, convoy training, increased use of firing ranges, and increased training at Crisis City at the Installation. Additionally, per SAIA the existing INRMP is over five years old. Furthermore, failure to approve and implement an updated INRMP would result in gaps in protection of environmental resources, as multiple training areas have been added since the previous version of the INRMP. While the No Action Alternative would not satisfy the purpose of or need for the Proposed Action, this alternative was retained to provide a comparative baseline against which to analyze the effects of the Proposed Action, as required under the CEQ Regulations (40 CFR Part 1502.14). The No Action Alternative reflects the status quo and serves as a benchmark against which the effects of the Proposed Action can be evaluated.

#### Preferred Action Alternative (Proposed Action)

The Proposed Action entails approval and implementation of the revised INRMP. The revised INRMP encompasses current operations at the KSTC, as well as ensures compliance with current environmental standards and with the SAIA. This INRMP provides KSARNG's natural resource personnel with a baseline description of the KSTC and its surrounding environments. The INRMP also provides management practices that will allow the KSARNG to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate negative impacts while enhancing the positive impacts of the Installation's mission on regional ecosystems. Natural resources management has been integrated with the military operations of the KSTC to accomplish its mission to the maximum practicable extent. Accordingly, this revised INRMP presents management activities that are consistent with KSARNG's training mission and stewardship of natural resources on the Installation. In some cases, the implementation of these management activities may sacrifice the improvement of KSTC's natural resources in deference to the safety and efficiency of the military mission.

The environmental consequences of both alternatives have been evaluated in the coming sections, and a summary of the environmental consequences is provided in **Table 3**:

**Table 3: Summary of Environmental Consequences**

<b>Technical Resource Area</b>	<b>No Action Alternative</b>	<b>Preferred Action Alternative</b>
<b>Land Use</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action.	No short-term impacts to land use were identified, because land use will not be immediately impacted by Proposed Action. Long-term positive impact through programmatic monitoring and Best Management Practices described in INRMP.
<b>Air Quality</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action. On-going operations emissions would continue.	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action, as current operations emissions would continue.
<b>Noise</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action.	No short- or long-term impacts to noise are anticipated, as the Proposed Action would not result in increased traffic.
<b>Geology, Topography, and Soils</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action.	No short-term impacts to geology, topography, or soils were identified, because these attributes would not be immediately impacted by Proposed Action. Long-term positive impact through programmatic monitoring and Best Management Practices described in INRMP.
<b>Water Resources</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action.	No short-term impacts to water resources, as the Proposed Action does not directly affect water resources; long-term positive impacts achieved through programmatic monitoring and Best Management Practices described in INRMP.
<b>Biological Resources</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action.	No short-term impacts to biological impacts, as monitoring and evaluating habitat would not lead to short-term impacts. Long-term positive impact through programmatic monitoring and Best Management Practices described in INRMP.
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action.	No short- or long-term impacts resulting from Proposed Action, as culturally-significant resources were not evaluated in the project area.

### 3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

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This section describes the existing conditions at the KSTC and provides a basis for evaluating the effects of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives. Effects can be direct, indirect, or cumulative. Direct effects occur at the same place and time as the actions that cause them, while indirect effects may be geographically removed or delayed in time. A cumulative impact is an effect on the environment that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. This environmental assessment focuses on resources and issues of concern within in the following general environmental resource categories:

- Land Use.
- Air Quality.
- Noise.
- Topography, Geology and Soils.
- Water Resources.
- Biological Resources.
- Cultural Resources.
- Socio-Economics.
- Environmental Justice.
- Infrastructure.
- Hazardous and Toxic Materials.

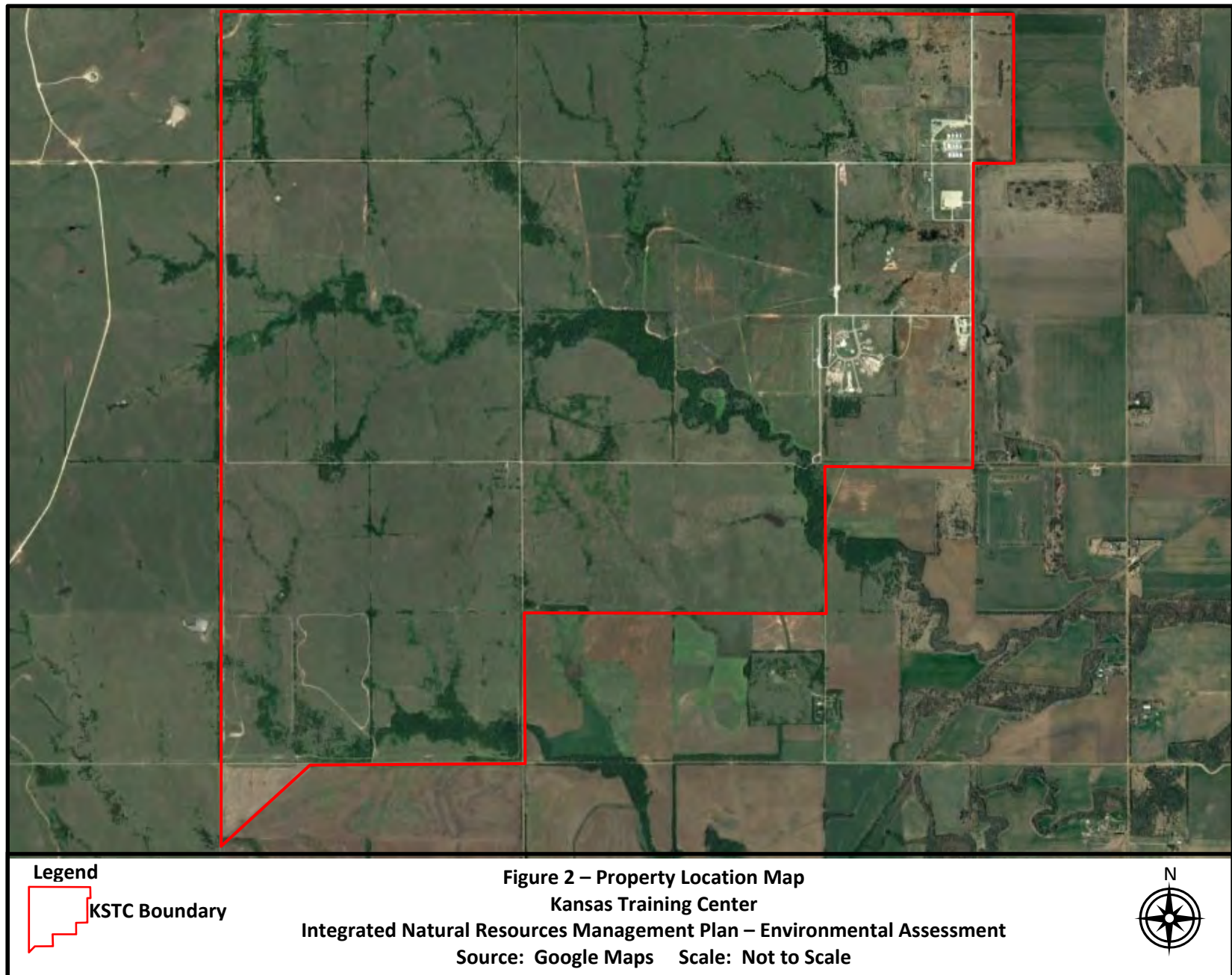
Additional detailed information on the past and existing conditions at the KSTC can be found in the 2018 INRMP.

As indicated in Section 1.3, a precursory look at socioeconomic, environmental justice, infrastructure, and hazardous and toxic materials was conducted. However, due to these resources not being present or not likely to be impacted through implementation of the alternatives, these environmental impact categories did not require further analysis.

#### 3.1 Location Description

The KSTC is located in southwestern Saline County, approximately 12 miles southwest of the city of Salina. The Installation occupies all or parts of Sections 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, and 33, Township 15 South, Range 4 West. The Installation covers approximately 3,560 acres of land in the northeast corner of the Smoky Hill ANGR, which is owned by the federal government and licensed to the KSARNG for training and support.

**Figure 2** shows the location of the KSTC on an aerial photograph.



### 3.2 Land Use

Prior to the 1800s, the Saline County area was principally inhabited by the Plains Comanche, Kansa, Pawnee, Wichita, and Cheyenne tribes. French fur traders and trappers bartered with Indian tribes in the Saline County area during the 1700s, and in 1806 Captain Zebulon Pike came into the area and met with the chiefs of the Kansa tribe to arrange a peace treaty and establish friendly relations with the Comanche. Captain Pike also gathered information on the natural environment, streams, mineral resources, and the people of the southern portion of the Louisiana Purchase. On the way to a large Pawnee village on the Republican River in Nebraska, Pike's expedition passed only a few miles to the east of the Smoky Hill ANGR (National Guard Bureau, 2017).

Settlers began to arrive in the Saline County area in the late 1850s, although the number remained low due to fear of the various Indian tribes in the region. With the arrival of the railroad, however, many more settlers came to Saline County, and the population grew to over 2,000 in a matter of months. The railroads continued to be a major influence in the growth and development of Saline County, and by 1918, Salina had become a major railroad junction for the Union-Pacific, Missouri- Pacific and Salina Northern rail lines.

In the 1860s, Swedish settlers purchased 22 sections of Kansas Pacific railroad land in the Smoky Hills valley. Two small towns located east of the KSTC, Smolan and Falun, were founded by members of the Swedish community. Other immigrants to Saline County in the area of the KSTC included African American families who settled west of Falun. The graves of several members of the families are still contained within the Smoky Hill Range. Descendants of these families remained in the area for over 60 years until the establishment of Camp Phillips in the early 1940s.

With the onset of World War II, 107 farm families had to leave their homes and sell their land in 1942 for the construction of Camp Phillips. Camp Phillips was one of a number of 35,000-man training camps established around the country following the start of the second world war. Over 42,000 acres (72 square miles) were taken for the base. Camp Phillips housed 45,000 troops and contained 54 miles of roads, a complete water and sewer system, cold storage plants, and large laundries. Among its 3,500 buildings were 11 chapels, 100 recreational buildings, five theaters, and 35 warehouses. It is estimated that over 150,000 troops trained at Camp Phillips. The facility also included a separate internment camp where Italian and German prisoners of war were held. Camp Phillips was deactivated in October 1944, when it was dismantled and the land was either leased or sold back to the original owners by 1946. Following the dismantling, the western part of the camp was used briefly as a gunnery range by Army Air Corps pilots stationed at the Smoky Hill Air Field. After the deactivation of Schilling, operation of the Range was transferred to various

commands of the United States Air Force. In 1973, the KSANG assumed all operating and maintenance authority. The 3,560 acres that comprise the KSTC is leased from the KSANG.

Today, the mission of the KSARNG at the KSTC is to provide skills training to soldiers of the ARNG. Training at the KSTC includes billeting, weapons ranges, vehicle transport and navigation training areas, FARP training, vehicle fueling, maintenance, recovery training, and ground navigation training areas for the DoD, the KSARNG, and other federal, state, and local government agencies. The training mission of the KSARNG at the KSTC will include increases in use of firing ranges that have expanded and moved location within the facility in 2016 and 2017; more mounted navigation, or convoy training both on- and off-site; and increased training use at the Crisis City facility. FARP training is new to the KSTC, and will include increased troop training from Fort Riley, Kansas. It is anticipated that current training levels for field navigation and off-road vehicle training will remain the same or may decrease (National Guard Bureau, 2017).

### 3.3 Air Quality

Air quality is determined within regional boundaries and by pollutant concentration guidelines as defined and enforced by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state agencies. The Clean Air Act (CAA), as amended in 1990, provides a comprehensive national program with the goal of reducing the levels of pollutants in the ambient air. Pursuant to the CAA, the EPA has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ambient air concentrations of the criteria air pollutants (sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen oxides, lead, and particulate matter) intended to protect the public health and welfare. No sensitive receptors were identified within approximately 0.50-miles of the vicinity of the KSTC.

Air quality is regulated by the EPA and the KDHE, as well as AR 200-1. At present time, a portion of Saline County, located approximately six to eight miles east of the KSTC is an NAAQS non-attainment area for lead.

### 3.4 Noise

There are no state or local noise ordinances at the KSTC or on surrounding properties. The U.S. Army, however, has established environmental noise management plans (ENMP) to protect the general public from noise impacts by monitoring noise levels. The latest ENMP, entitled *Kansas Army National Guard Statewide Operational Noise Management Plan*, was published in December 2012. This publication includes analysis of noise at KSTC, providing a strategy for noise management and making recommendations for compatible land uses in the vicinity. The ENMP

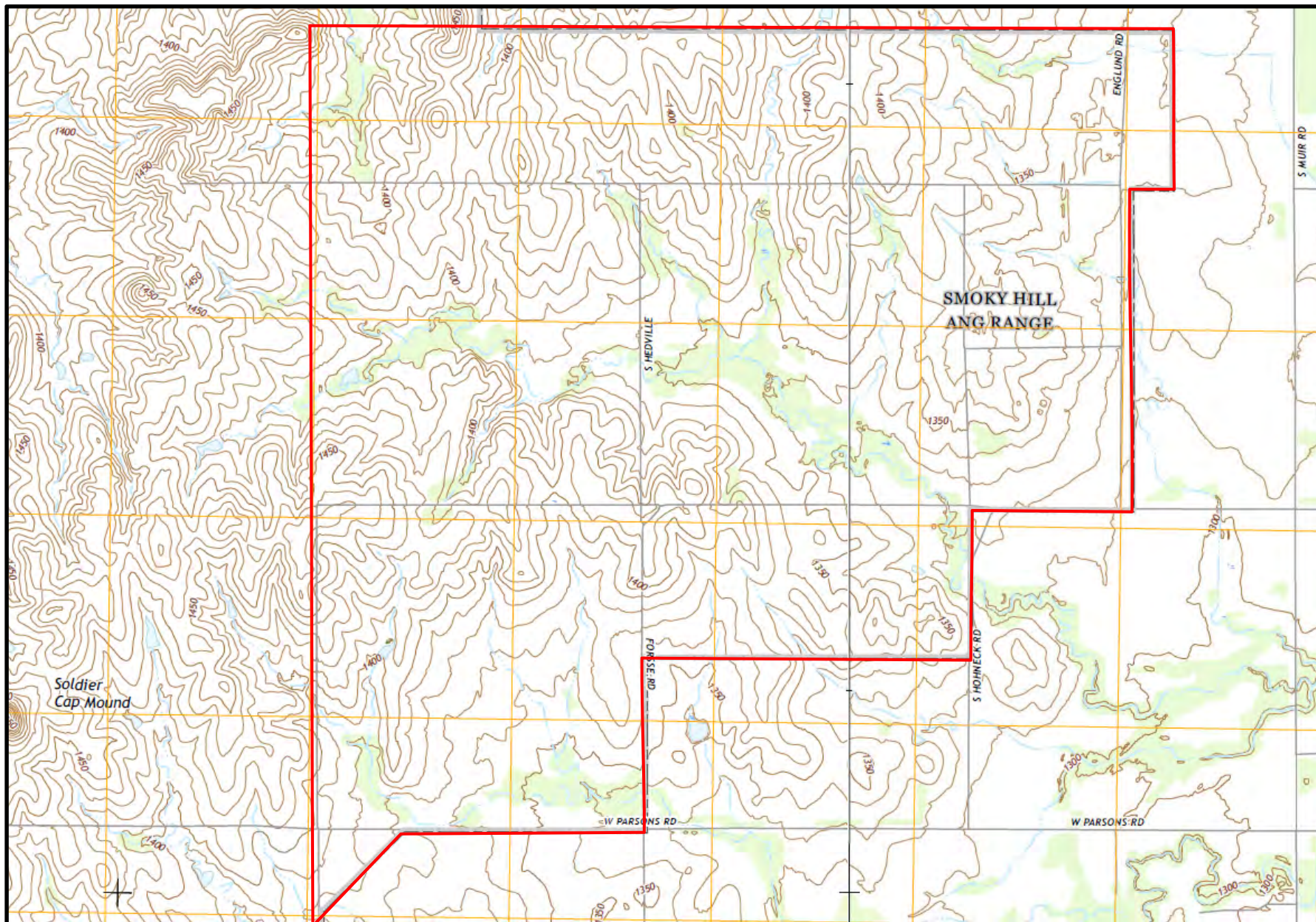
indicates that future projects planned at the KSTC would be categorized as 'Zone II' noise levels and would be contained within the existing KSTC small caliber noise zones.

As the KSTC is located in a relatively remote area, there are no sensitive receptors located in the vicinity of the KSTC. The nearest residence is located approximately 0.6 mile from the KSTC; there are no churches, schools, hospitals, libraries, or wilderness areas located within a three-mile radius of the KSTC. Although minimal, the main sources of noise at KSTC and the surrounding area are from vehicular traffic, firing range, normal operation for the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, lawn maintenance equipment, and general maintenance activities.

### 3.5 Geology, Topography, and Soils

#### 3.5.1 *Geologic and Topographic Conditions*

The KSTC falls in the region known as the Smoky Hills. This region is identified by the outcrops of Cretaceous-aged rocks and gets the name Smoky from the early morning haze that gathers in the valleys. During the Cretaceous Period, Kansas was under water. Three types of rock outcrops define the Smoky Hills: the sandstones of the Dakota Formation, the thick chinks of the Niobrara Chalk, and the limestones of the Greenhorn Limestone. The hills and buttes of the Smoky Hills are capped by the Dakota Formation sandstone and rise sharply above the surrounding plains. The next outcrop is the Greenhorn Limestone, made up of thin chalky limestone beds alternating with thicker beds of grayish shale. The third range is the Niobrara Chalk, where the chalk beds are known for the pinnacles, spires, and odd-shaped masses formed by chalk remnants (Kansas Geological Survey, 2005). **Figure 3** depicts the KSTC property boundary on a USGS topographic map.



#### Legend



KSTC Boundary

**Figure 3 – Property Topographic Map  
Kansas Training Center**

**Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan – Environmental Assessment**

**Source: 2015 7.5-Minute USGS Topographic Maps, Falun and Smolan Quads. Scale: 1:24,000**

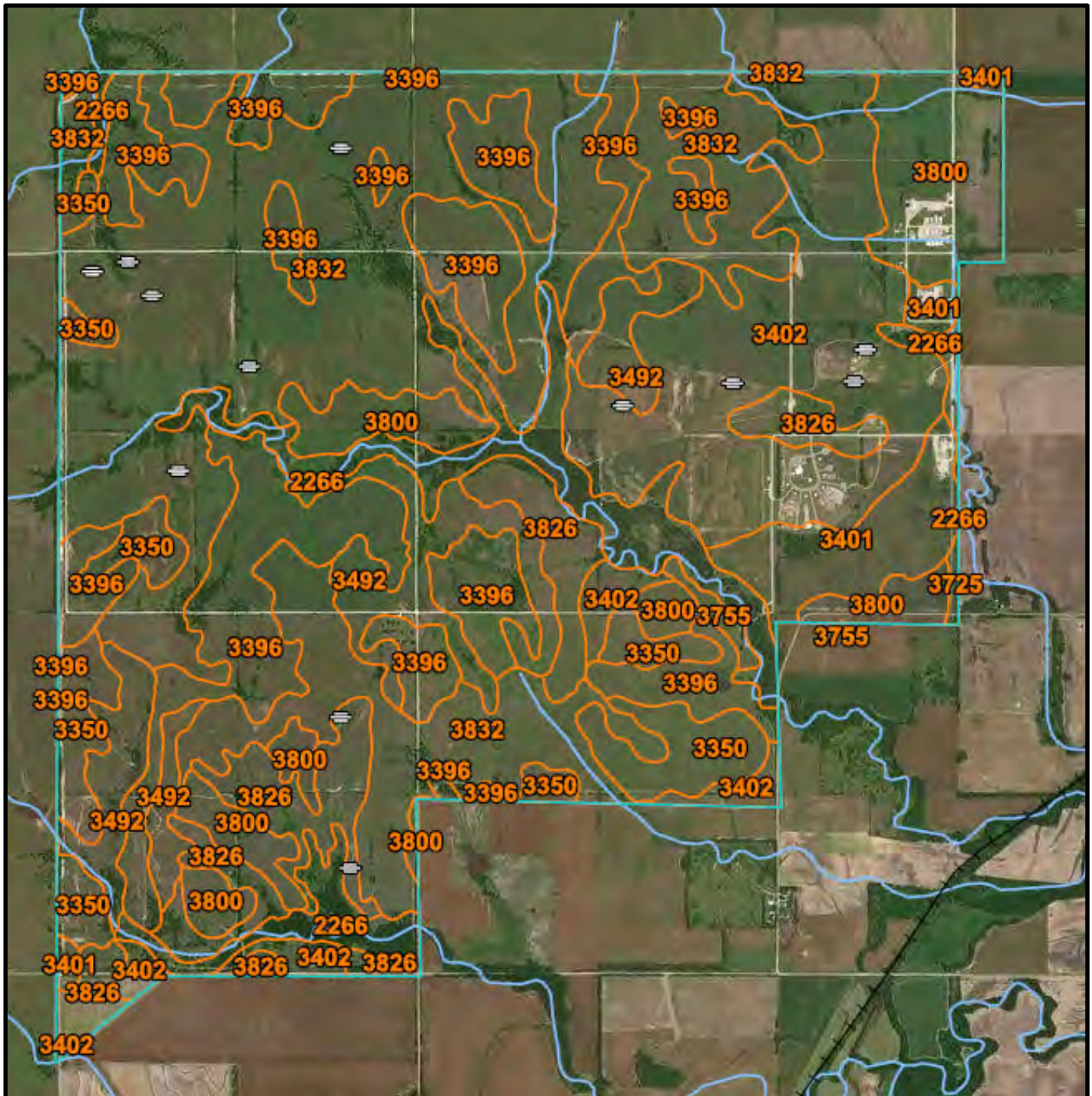


### 3.5.2 Soils

The soils at the KSTC formed on uplands with deep to moderately deep, well-drained to moderately well-drained soils, with clayey or loamy subsoils. The upland soil is drained by intermittent streams and is gently sloping with slopes ranging from 0 to 12 percent. The soils formed from weathered sandstone, weathered sandy shale, or in loess on ridge tops and sideslopes.

A Soil Management Plan for the KSTC completed in 2014 (Olsson Associates, 2014) identified soils in eight primary soil series that are present on the KSTC. The soils of the west and central portions of the KSTC, having formed in more rolling topography, are similar in nature, typically consisting of silt loam surface soil underlain by clay loam. These soils are often deep in the valley areas between ridges, and are shallow to moderate in depth along the side slopes and ridge tops. They are typically well drained, although infiltration is relatively slow. Soils in the east portion of the Installation have formed on more gently rolling to nearly flat topography. These are silt loam soils with clayey subsoil that is typically deep and well drained, and has good infiltration but slow percolation.

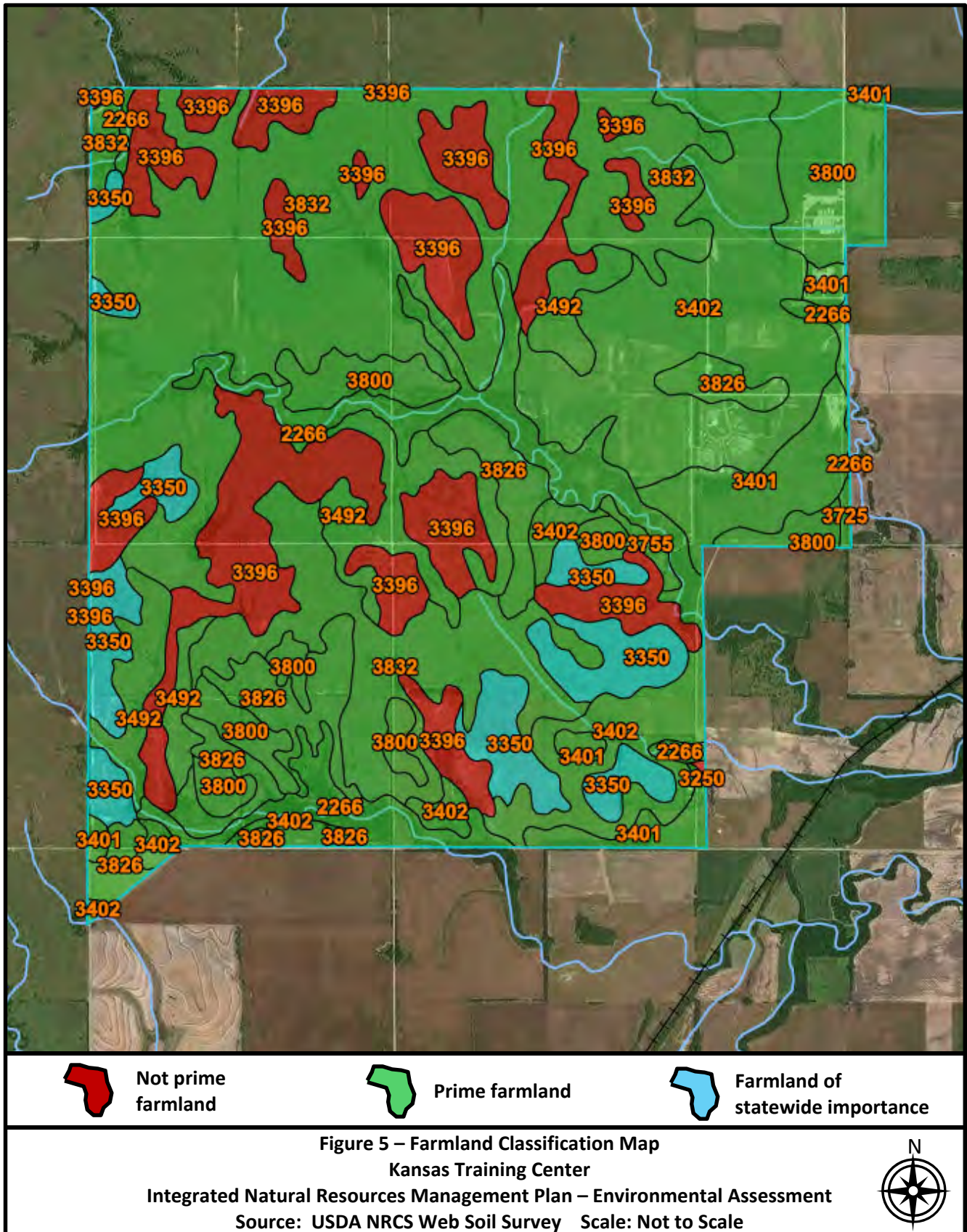
Prime farmland, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is available for these uses (NRCS 1999). Because the supply of high quality farmland is limited in the United States, prime farmland is identified by NRCS to ensure that a long-term supply of food and fiber is available. Soils mapped throughout the KSTC property are generally defined as prime farmland, or prime farmland of statewide importance. **Figure 4** depicts the KSTC property boundary on a NRCS soil map, while **Figure 5** depicts the prime farmland located on KSTC property.



2266: Tobin Silt Loam, occasionally flooded	3492: Wells Loam, 3-7% slopes	3826: Crete silt loam, 3-7% slopes
3350: Edalgo Clay Loam, 3-7% slopes	3725: Detroit Silty Loam, rarely flooded	3832: Crete-Wells Complex, 3-7% slopes
3396: Lancaster-Hedville Complex, 3-20% slopes	3755: Hord Silt Loam, rarely flooded	
3401: Longford Silt Loam, 1-3% slopes	3800: Crete Silt Loam, 0-1% slopes	



Figure 4 – Site Soil Map  
Kansas Training Center  
Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan – Environmental Assessment  
Source: USDA NRCS Web Soil Survey Scale: Not to Scale



### 3.6 Water Resources

#### 3.6.1 *Surface Water*

The KSTC is bisected by a tributary to West Dry Creek, which is an ephemeral stream. Additional ephemeral streams also flow across the KSTC in six other locations. The streams flow to the east across the property toward the Smoky Hill River. The KSTC is noted to have several ‘severely eroded’ areas on the USGS topographic map, likely due to the tendency for heavy thunderstorms. The KSARNG has impounded some drainages to create ponds and wetlands to provide diverse wildlife habitat at the KSTC.

The Lower Smoky Hill watershed in which the KSTC is located is identified as Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 10260008. According to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment *2018 303(d) List of All Impaired and Potentially Impaired Waters*, the Lower Smoky Hill watershed is listed as being impaired by nitrate for water supply uses, total phosphorus for aquatic life, biology for aquatic life, and total suspended solids for aquatic life.

Surface waters are regulated under the Kansas Administrative Regulations, Article 16. This article states that, “For all surface waters of the State, if existing water quality is better than applicable water quality criteria established in these regulations, that existing water quality shall be fully maintained and protected.” A watershed study of the KSTC was completed in 2007 (Applied Ecological Services [AES], 2008) and stated the condition of the watershed is stable. It noted, however, that if and as the military training mission of the KSTC changes, the potential for added erosion could increase, thereby impacting water quality. The watershed study included a vulnerability assessment that concluded there is increased stormwater runoff volumes with construction of new facilities, particularly on the east portion of the property.

#### 3.6.2 *Hydrology/Groundwater*

Two aquifers used for water consumption are present in Saline County on the Property, including the Smoky Hill stream-valley aquifer and the Wellington aquifer. The Smoky Hill stream-valley aquifer is considered the primary groundwater resource in this area. The Wellington Aquifer is used for stock wells and minimal domestic wells.

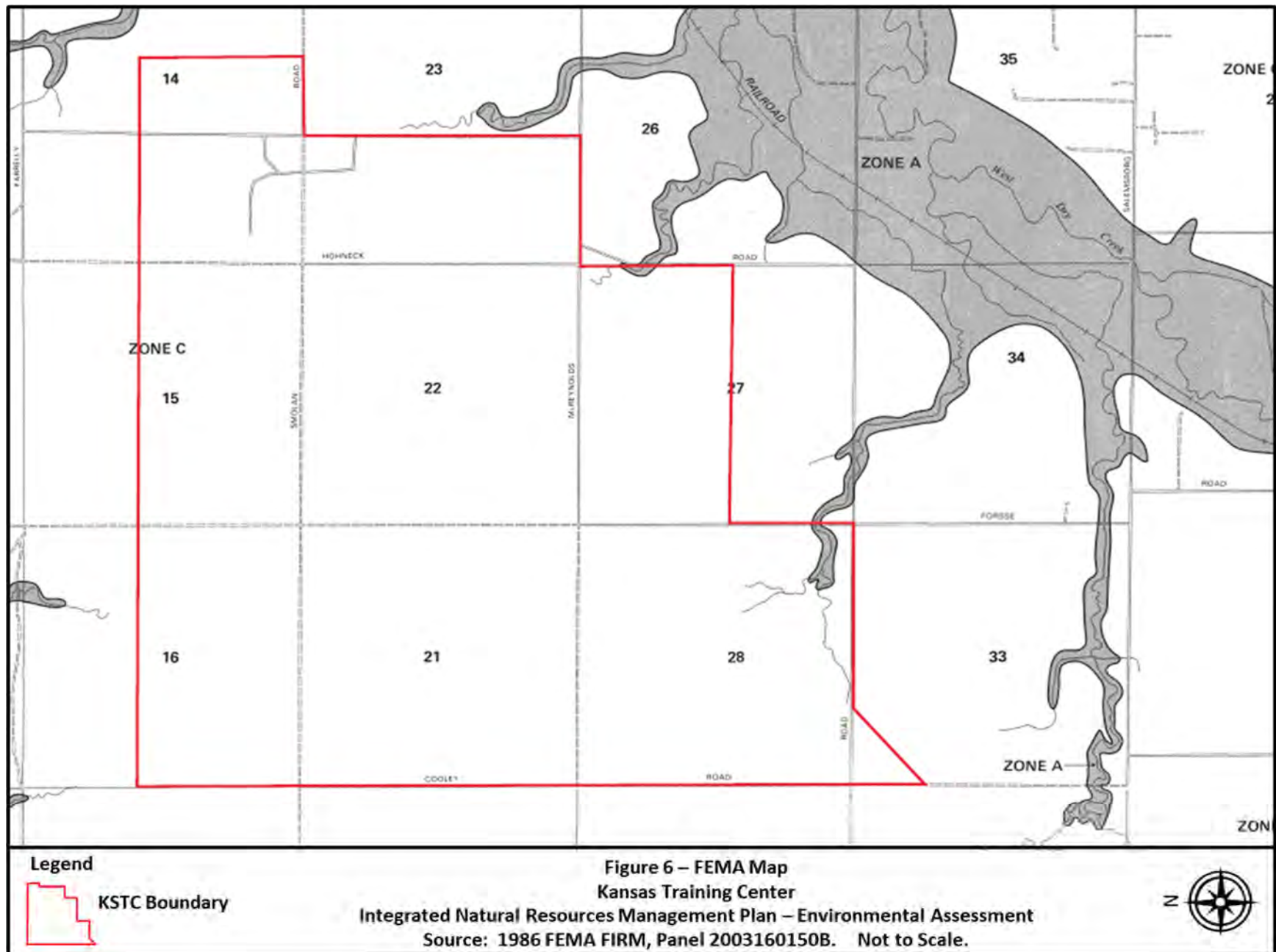
Domestic water wells located in the vicinity of the Property indicated that static water level ranges from 5 to 10 feet below ground surface (bgs). According to the 2013 U.S. Army Operational Range Assessment Program (ORAP) Phase I Qualitative Report, five monitoring wells (MW-1 through MW-5) are located within the KSTC installation. These groundwater monitoring wells are located within the Smoky Hill stream-valley aquifer and depth to groundwater ranges

from approximately 22 to 60 feet bgs. No well logs were available, but the ORAP Report indicated that the wells were most likely screened in the Smoky Hill stream valley aquifer.

The KSTC uses non-potable ground water from one well located on the installation. This well is not tested for suitability for human consumption, because it is not used for drinking. The KSTC receives its drinking water from Post Rock Rural Water District.

### *3.6.3 Floodplains*

A search of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps indicated that the project area is located on Map Panel 2003160150B for the unincorporated areas of Saline County. A review of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) indicates that a few portions of the KSTC traverse Zone A, defined as the 100-year flood zone in which flood elevations and flood hazard factors have not yet been determined. Areas encroaching in the 100-year flood zone are located in the southern portions of the KSTC, adjacent to the tributaries to West Dry Creek. The Proposed Action would take place in a floodplain; **Figure 6** depicts the KSTC property on a FEMA FIRM. In accordance with Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 13690, there are no long-term or short-term adverse impacts to floodplains associated with the Proposed Action, as no construction or development will occur with implementation of the INRMP.



### 3.7 Biological Resources

#### 3.7.1 Vegetation

The KSTC lies in the transition zone between the tallgrass prairie and the mixed-grass prairie, although tallgrasses historically dominated the area. No well-developed forests are present; rather relatively small woodland areas are established along the streams or wetland areas. Naturally, the prairie is maintained by fire and grazing buffalo, and later by grazing cattle. The dominant vegetation of the tallgrass prairies includes big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), and Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*).

A vegetation inventory was completed in 2005 at the KSTC, during which four distinct vegetative community types were identified. The vegetative communities were determined by species composition, and included the following:

- Grassland, including dry mesic prairie, mesic prairie, and wet prairie.
- Woodland, including riparian woodlands, hackberry woodlands, and osage-orange woodlands.
- Wetlands, including emergent/wet prairie wetland complexes, wet and dry ponds, pond/emergent wetland complexes, and scrub-shrub wetlands.
- Cultural vegetative communities, including fire breaks, cropland, and developed or disturbed areas (office, barracks, and maintenance areas).

The current grassland vegetative cover consists mainly of a mix of foraging and pasture grass species, with several areas of shrub and woody tree species. The dominant grass species are native grasses, including big bluestem, Indiangrass, big bluestem, prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), and grama grass (*Bouteloua spp.*). Smooth and Downy brome (*Bromus inermis* and *Bromus tectorum*, respectively) are also present, but not dominantly. Switchgrass, big bluestem, little bluestem, and Indiangrass are nicknamed “The Big Four” for a healthy tallgrass prairie ecoregion. Forb species present on the site include lead plant (*Amorpha canescens*), western ragweed (*Ambrosia psilostachya*), Heath aster (*Symphotrichum ericoides*), and Maximillian sunflower (*Helianthus maximillani*).

Woodlands are dominated by Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*) and hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) in terms of stem counts, canopy cover, and overall importance. Riparian woodlands

tend to be more diverse than upland areas, with American elm (*Ulmus americana*), hackberry, Osage orange, honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), and several minor tree species present. Woodlands at the KSTC, then, are of the same general nature of many woodlands throughout the state (Olsson Associates, 2014). The diversity of tree species further identifies these woodlands as young ecosystems that provide diverse wildlife habitat.

Wetland communities included scrub-shrub wetlands typically found along narrow, intermittent drainages or along pond edges in the central and western portions of KSTC. They consist of bush wild-indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*), prairie cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*), American germander (*Teucrium canadense*), American waterhorehound (*Lycopus americanus*), and Torrey's rush (*Juncus torreyi*) with pond edges composed of black willow (*Salix nigra*) and eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*). Wetlands also include Palustrine emergent wetlands that are associated with drainages, depressions, and ponds and consist of smartweed (*Persicaria* spp.), cattails (*Typha* spp.), bald spikerush and pale spike-rush (*Eleocharis erythropoda* and *Eleocharis macrostachya*, respectively), American water horehound, yellowfruit sedge (*Carex annectans*), Torrey's rush, rough barnyard grass (*Echinochloa muricata*), common cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), and broad-leaf arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*) (AES, 2007).

### 3.7.2 Wildlife

A number of aquatic and terrestrial faunal surveys have been conducted at the KSTC since 2005. Surveys completed from 2010 to 2015 found that mammal species captured or observed at the KSTC are similar to general mammal populations and diversity in Kansas prairies.

A 2013 aquatic macroinvertebrate survey included observations at four aquatic features to assess diversity and relative population numbers of aquatic macroinvertebrate species that provide part of the foundation of the ecosystem of the KSTC. Three of the four surveyed aquatic features indicated good biodiversity characteristics; the fourth aquatic feature was found to have low invertebrate populations due to factors such as hydrology, population dynamics, or random distribution of species, not because of poor environmental conditions.

The 2013 aquatic vertebrate survey utilized electrofishing techniques to capture and identify fish species. Four species of fish were captured and identified in a shallow pond during the survey. The survey noted that fish species that had previously been stocked in the pond were not all identified, likely due to the fact that the pond had run dry since the initial stocking of fish. However, the lack of stocked fish in the pond does not indicate that conditions at the KSTC are prohibiting fish species from populating the area.

A terrestrial macroinvertebrate survey was also conducted in 2013, utilizing sweep surveys and direct searches. Most of the identified insects were classified as 'true bugs,' which generally include leafhoppers, assassin bugs, and cicadas. The surveys will be used as a baseline to which future surveys will be compared to measure biodiversity, species composition, and the effectiveness of resource management projects.

Avian surveys conducted from 2012 to 2016 detected 64 species of breeding birds at the KSTC and an additional 33 species using the area as a wintering ground. Ten species of interest were detected during the five-year survey period: including one species identified by the KDWPT as species in need of conservation (SINC), six species classified as Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC), and three additional species. The species of interest included Henslow's sparrow, Bell's vireo, Swainson's hawk, an upland sandpiper, red-headed woodpecker, scissor-tailed flycatcher, loggerhead shrike, greater prairie-chicken, brown-headed cowbirds, and the grasshopper sparrow.

Surveys conducted in 2012 and 2013 inventoried both small and large mammals present at the KSTC. The survey indicated that a total of 25 small mammal species occur at the KSTC, and 10 medium- to large-mammal species. Additionally, a 2016 survey indicated that six species of bats, not including any threatened or endangered bat species, were found to be present at the KSTC. The surveys indicated that the disruption of the KSTC's grassland habitat through cultivation, erosion, or annual burning has the potential to reduce the small mammal population, which will directly affect the populations of those predator species which rely upon them for food (Olsson, 2012a).

During a 2012 survey, four species of snakes, two species of turtles, two species of skinks, and three species of frogs were inventoried at the KSTC. Additionally, a more comprehensive survey conducted at the adjacent Smokey Hill ANGR detected 34 species of reptiles and amphibians. Due to habitat similarity, it is expected that most, if not all, of these species are also located at the KSTC.

The wildlife surveys conducted in the past five years at the KSTC indicate a great diversity of species. Surveys and species monitoring conducted as part of the INRMP over the next five years will be utilized to determine if wildlife populations and/or species diversity is increasing or decreasing at the KSTC.

### 3.7.3 *Threatened and Endangered Species*

#### Federally-listed Species

According to the USFWS Information, Planning, and Conservation System, the Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*; threatened) and the whooping crane (*Grus americana*; endangered) are the only federally-listed species that should be considered in an effects analysis for the INRMP. The Northern long-eared bat winters in caves and mines, and roosts singly or in colonies underneath bark or in cavities of trees. A 2016 bat survey did not find indications of the Northern long-eared bat at the KSTC. The whooping crane inhabits marshes and prairie potholes in the summer. In winter, they are found in coastal marshes and prairies. While critical habitat has been defined for the whooping crane, the KSTCS is not included as part of the critical habitat for this species. **Appendix B** provides the USFWS Official Species List for the KSTC.

The USFWS was consulted regarding the Proposed Action's impacts on threatened and endangered species (see Appendix A for full letter). According to the USFWS, there is minimal risk of potentially adverse effects to migrating whooping cranes at this location. Most risk will be alleviated by following avoidance and minimization measures. These measures are included in Section 4.7.1.

#### State-listed Species

Species listed by the KDWPT are listed along with the federally-listed species in **Table 4**. These species could be present at the KSTC; however, current operations at the KSTC are not known to endanger or jeopardize the species listed below.

Table 4: Threatened, Endangered, and Species in Need of Conservation			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status
<i>Mammals</i>			
Eastern spotted skunk	<i>Spilogale putorius</i>	N/A	Threatened
Franklin's ground squirrel	<i>Poliocitellus franklinii</i>	N/A	SINC
Northern long-eared bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Threatened	N/A
Southern bog lemming	<i>Synaptomys cooperi</i>	N/A	SINC
<i>Invertebrates</i>			
Wabash pigtoe mussel	<i>Fusconaia flava</i>	N/A	SINC
American burying beetle	<i>Nicrophorus americanus</i>	N/A	Endangered
<i>Reptiles</i>			
Western hognose snake	<i>Heterodon nasicus</i>	N/A	SINC
<i>Fish</i>			
Topeka shiner	<i>Notropis topeka</i>	N/A	Threatened
<i>Birds</i>			
Whooping crane	<i>Grus americana</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Least tern	<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	N/A	Endangered
Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	N/A	Threatened
Snowy plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	N/A	Threatened
Black tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	N/A	SINC
Short-eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	N/A	SINC
Ferruginous hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	N/A	SINC
Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	N/A	SINC
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	N/A	SINC
Henslow's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	N/A	SINC
Long-billed curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	N/A	SINC

### 3.8 Cultural Resources

The ARNG NEPA Handbook defines cultural resources to include 'historic properties' as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 'cultural items' as defined by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 'archaeological resources' as defined by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), 'sacred sites' as defined in EO13007 to which access is afforded under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA), and 'collections and associated records' as defined under 36 CFR 79.

The 2010-2015 Update of the *Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan* (ICRMP) indicates that an archaeological survey of the KSTC has been completed, and that no resources of religious, traditional, or cultural significance have been recorded on KSTC property. The survey concluded

that, of the 60 buildings located at the KSTC, only 17 were 50 years or older, and 21 archaeological sites were identified, although none were eligible.

The KSTC is comprised of federally-owned land. All projects are subject to review by the Kansas State Historic Preservation (SHPO) Officer and concerned tribes to determine the effects and mitigation measures. Additional information regarding cultural resources is provided in the INRMP.

As discussed in Section 1.3 of this report, some environmental resources were not included in the detailed analysis in this section because they are not present within the Proposed Action area, or the Proposed Action's impacts on the resource would be inherently negligible. These resources include socioeconomics, environmental justice, infrastructure, and hazardous and toxic materials and waste. Socioeconomics for the Census Tract in which the KSTC is located have not significantly changed from the time of the 2011 INRMP; as such, socioeconomics and environmental justice were not assessed in detail. Additionally, the Proposed Action would have no impact on existing infrastructure or hazardous wastes; therefore, these environmental resources were also eliminated from further analysis.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

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### 4.1 Introduction

The potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative are presented in this section. This section also compares the effects of implementing the Proposed Action with the potential effects of the No Action Alternative, and identifies BMPs and/or mitigation measures that would reduce the level of identified impacts, as appropriate.

### 4.2 Land Use

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative were evaluated against the following significance criteria to determine if they would result in a significant impact on land use:

- Alternative would conflict with, divide, or substantially change existing KSTC land use or land cover.
- Alternative would conflict with, or cause changes to, existing land use or zoning of land adjacent to the KSTC.
- Alternative would limit the capability of the KSARNG to carry out its assigned mission to provide adequate training facilities at KSTC.

#### 4.2.1 *Effects of the Proposed Action*

Implementation of the Proposed Action would be expected to have positive impacts on land use at the KSTC. The Proposed Action would not conflict with, divide, or substantially change existing land use at the KSTC. Additionally, the Proposed Action would not affect land use or zoning of land adjacent to the KSTC, nor would it impede the training facilities.

The INRMP strives to enhance and maintain biological diversity at the KSTC. To do this, the INRMP identifies the following objectives:

- Update fish and wildlife surveys every five years at the KSTC.
- Maintain balanced fish populations in the KSTC ponds.
- Achieve no net loss of wildlife habitat to sustain species.
- Update the GIS wildlife database to prioritize wildlife adaptive management techniques.

- Characterize KSTC habitats related to threatened and endangered species for site management.
- Determine and develop appropriate habitat management plans for threatened and endangered species, as well as species in need of conservation.
- Develop an avoidance plan to avoid disruption of Henslow's sparrow nests on or near the KSTC.
- Inventory and map wetlands and non-wetland Waters of the US.
- Monitor wetlands for function.
- Monitor existing KSTC ponds for depth, quality, maintenance of aquatic habitat, and support of wildlife species.
- Assess the current physical and biological health of streams at the KSTC.
- Identify and delineate vegetation cover boundaries.
- Enhance and manage prairie habitats.
- Identify, restore, and maintain prairie ecosystem areas at the KSTC and reseed to native mixed-grass prairies within 5 years.
- Maintain healthy forest ecosystems at KSTC.
- Manage military training with minimal impact to migratory birds.
- Conduct avian surveys every five years at the KSTC.
- Conduct a survey to document the distribution and density of invasive vegetative species.
- Continue to apply prescription fire on grasslands on the three-year cycle.
- Continue restoration of the prairie ecosystem to a mixed seral stage succession.
- Control the spread of woody vegetation and eliminate small dense patches.
- Promote the involvement of the KSTC community groups and other agencies to assist with regional conservation efforts.
- Continue to provide training opportunities for KSARNG environmental program staff.

Specific projects detailing how these objectives will be met can be found in Chapter 8 of the 2018 INRMP.

As the abovementioned objectives entail monitoring and surveying, and do not prescribe specific land use modifications to the KSTC, none of the objectives are anticipated to result in a short- or long-term significant adverse impact on land use.

#### *4.2.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative*

Under the No Action Alternative, the INRMP would not be revised to reflect current operations at the Installation, and would thus be out of compliance with the SAIA. Additionally, numerous

training facilities, including the FARP training facility, convoy training area, and additional firing ranges, have been added at the Installation since the previous INRMP was implemented. Under the 2011 INRMP, these new facilities would be unevaluated with respect to their prospective impacts to the natural environment. This lack of evaluation and preventative action would potentially lead to adverse impacts to natural resources in the vicinity of the KSTC.

#### *4.2.3 Mitigation Measures*

No mitigation measures will be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels.

### *4.3 Air Quality*

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative were evaluated against the following significance criteria to determine if they would result in a significant impact to air quality:

- Alternative would cause an exceedance of the NAAQS and/or require a conformity analysis.
- Alternative would significantly increase greenhouse gas emissions or airborne fugitive dust.
- Alternative would increase health risks for nearby sensitive receptors.

#### *4.3.1 Effects of the Proposed Action*

The EPA has established NAAQS for seven pollutants. KSTC is located in Saline County, in an area which is currently in attainment. A formal conformity determination is not required. No new emission sources will be required under the Proposed Action. Support vehicles and handheld equipment would be well below applicable thresholds. As the KSTC's training exercises will include increases in use of firing ranges, more convoy training, the amount of field navigation and off-road vehicle training is expected to remain the same or decrease. As such, air quality is not anticipated to be adversely impacted by actions described in the 2018 INRMP. Additionally, the Proposed Action is not expected to significantly increase greenhouse gas emissions or airport fugitive dust, nor is it anticipated to increase health risks for nearby sensitive receptors, on either a short- or long-term basis.

#### *4.3.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative*

Under the No Action Alternative, conditions would remain unchanged and no air quality impacts would occur.

#### *4.3.3 Mitigation Measures*

No mitigation measures will be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels.

#### *4.4 Noise*

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative were evaluated against the following significance criteria to determine if they would result in a significant impact to noise:

- Alternative would substantially increase noise resulting from traffic.
- Alternative would result in significant disruptions to nearby sensitive receptors.

##### *4.4.1 Effects of the Proposed Action*

The Proposed Action is not expected to substantially increased noise resulting from traffic, nor is it anticipated to result in significant disruptions to nearby sensitive receptors. Direct noise impacts are not anticipated to occur as a result of implementation of the revised INRMP. Night operations and aircraft are not anticipated to be a part of the Proposed Action, and implementation of the revised INRMP would not result in impacts to residences, churches, schools, hospitals, libraries, or wilderness areas. The INRMP indicates that noise emanating from the Crisis City training operations could disturb roosting bird species, but an increase in noise levels over current operations is not expected. Therefore, no short- or long-term adverse impacts to noise are anticipated to occur as part of the Proposed Action.

##### *4.4.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative*

Under the No Action Alternative, conditions would remain unchanged and no noise impacts would occur.

#### *4.4.3 Mitigation Measures*

No mitigation measures will be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels.

#### 4.5 Geology, Topography, and Soils

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative were evaluated against the following significance criteria to determine if they would result in an adverse impact to geology, topography, and soils:

- Alternative would significantly alter subsurface geological or mineral resources.
- Alternative would increase human safety risks to potential geological activity, such as possible subsidence, seismic activity, or high shrink/swell potential.
- Alternative would alter topography such that there would be a substantial risk of erosion.
- Alternative would subject new areas to training activities that would result in substantial changes to topography or soils (i.e., impact area for explosions).

##### 4.5.1 *Effects of the Proposed Action*

The Proposed Action is not anticipated to adversely impact geology or soils. The 2018 revised INRMP includes commitments of managing the lands of the KSTC in a ‘...manner that is consistent with the requirements of the [Sikes Act] and to complete actions that enhance and balance the physical (soil and water) and biological (plant and animal) communities at the Installation. This is a commitment to protecting Installation resources and natural ecological processes.’

Soil erosion and conservation are important management concerns to protect water resources. A soil management plan has been developed that provides listings of the soil types at the KSTC, and management to maintain soil quality and prevent erosion. Additional commitments include agricultural out-leasing to regional producers to capitalize on the available prime farmland and to mimic the graze/fire dependent prairie ecosystem. Furthermore, the Proposed Action does not include permanent conversion of prime farmland, nor does it include any long- or short-term adverse impacts to geology, topography, or soils.

##### 4.5.2 *Effects of the No Action Alternative*

Under the No Action Alternative, conditions would remain unchanged and construction-related geology, topography, or soil impacts would not occur.

#### *4.5.3 Mitigation Measures*

No mitigation measures will be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels.

#### *4.6 Water Resources*

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative were evaluated against the following significance criteria to determine if they would result in a significant impact to water resources:

- Alternative would increase flooding in the Proposed Action area due to changes in drainage patterns or construction in the 100-year floodplain.
- Alternative would significantly alter the quantity or quality of surface water.
- Alternative would result in a net loss of wetland acreage or substantially degrade existing wetland quality.
- Alternative would significantly alter the quantity or quality of groundwater.

##### *4.6.1 Effects of the Proposed Action*

Stormwater runoff can be a significant source of pollutants and sediment in surface waters, especially in areas where groundcover has been disturbed. Water quality also may be adversely impacted by disturbances causing increased sedimentation to wetlands and stream channels. Stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces, such as may exist in FARP operations training areas or in semi-paved or compacted parking areas, has a high potential to carry pollutants into wetlands, surface waters, and groundwater. The 2018 revised INRMP details BMPs to protect water resources, including the following:

- Revegetation at the conclusion of land disturbance
- Utilization of silt fencing during construction
- Ditch accumulation monitoring
- Wetland protection measures to avoid placement of fill material in wetlands.

Based on the BMPs to be utilized as part of the 2018 INRMP, the Proposed Action is anticipated to maintain or improve water resources at the KSTC.

As discussed in Section 3.6.3, the Proposed Action would take place in a floodplain. In accordance with Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 13690, there are no long-term or short-term

adverse impacts to floodplains associated with the Proposed Action, as no construction or development will occur with implementation of the INRMP.

No foreseeable changes in drainage patterns or construction in the floodplain would result from the Proposed Action, nor would the Proposed Action significantly impact surface water bodies. The Proposed Action includes no specific plans for reduction in wetland acreage, nor does it include alteration of the quantity or quality of groundwater. As such, no short- or long-term adverse impacts to water resources are expected to result from the Proposed Action.

#### *4.6.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative*

Conditions would remain unchanged under the No Action Alternative and no water resource impacts would occur.

#### *4.6.3 Mitigation Measures*

No mitigation measures will be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels.

### *4.7 Biological Resources*

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative were evaluated against the following significance criteria to determine if they would result in a significant impact to biological resources:

- Alternative would convert or degrade existing rare habitats not currently managed in a conservation plan.
- Alternative would convert or degrade a substantial amount of existing habitat.
- Alternative would result in substantial mortality of wildlife.
- Alternative would adversely affect populations of federally or state threatened or endangered species.

#### *4.7.1 Effects of the Proposed Action*

The INRMP strives to enhance and maintain biological diversity at the KSTC by doing the following:

1. Set forth management that will maintain and enhance natural resources on KSTC that are needed to support the mission of the KSARNG.

2. Minimize habitat fragmentation and promote the natural pattern and connectivity of habitats.
3. Protect native species and discourage non-native, exotic species.
4. Protect rare and ecologically important species.
5. Protect unique or sensitive environments.
6. Maintain or mimic natural processes.
7. Protect genetic diversity.
8. Rehabilitate ecosystems, communities, and species.
9. Monitor biodiversity impacts.

The 2018 revised INRMP acknowledges a variety of wildlife habitats present at the KSTC, and provides goals specifically for wildlife management at the Installation. These goals include the following:

1. Update fish and wildlife surveys every five years at the KSTC to gather available current scientific data and formulate natural resource management strategies consistent with the KSTC's military mission.
2. Manage balanced fish populations in the KSTC ponds.
3. Manage balanced wildlife populations on-site.
4. Establish a wildlife database using GIS to prioritize wildlife adaptive management techniques by 2022.

As part of the Proposed Action, biological resources at the KSTC will be periodically quantified and evaluated, allowing for further improvements in the future. Implementation of the Proposed Action would be expected to have a long-term positive effect on Federal and state threatened and endangered species at the KSTC. The INRMP restricts training activities in the most sensitive areas, including those where Federal and/or state threatened or endangered species have been identified to occur. The INRMP also includes specific recommendations for conducting species inventories, and managing threatened and endangered species populations that are associated with the KSTC.

Under the Proposed Action, protection and improvement of habitat would be expected to result in beneficial effects to threatened and endangered species resources as well as many other species of wildlife. Protection of existing communities would continue, and, if needed, additional management and protection would be developed, including updating the Endangered Species section of the INRMP, if new threatened or endangered (e.g. northern long-eared bat) resources are identified.

According to the USFWS (see Appendix A for letter from the agency), there is minimal risk of potentially adverse effects to migrating whooping cranes at this location. Most risk will be alleviated by following avoidance and minimization measures. This includes a general awareness and in-house surveys of habitats that may be inviting to migrating whooping cranes as stopover sites (e.g. shallow emergent wetlands, shallow flooded agricultural fields, and shallow flooded grassland habitats), and giving space to any birds that may be detected until their departure from the area. The Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) is protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) as threatened, and under a 4(d) rule. The 4(d) rule provides flexibility with implementation of the ESA, and allows for limited tree removal projects provided those projects do not occur within 0.25 mile from a known, occupied hibernacula or involve any cutting of known, occupied roost trees during the pup season (June 1-July 31). There are currently no known maternity roosts or hibernacula near the Kansas Training Center in Salina.

BMPs intended to protect biological resources resulting from the Proposed Action would include the following:

- Integrated pest management
- Removal of invasive vegetation
- Use of silt fence during construction and revegetation after construction to protect habitat.

The management strategies and practices for protection of threatened and endangered species presented in the INRMP are the result of research, monitoring, and management of the biological resources at the KSTC, and consultations with local, regional, and Federal natural resources management professionals. The INRMP provides the best recommendations of natural resources personnel and cooperating partner agencies. Based on these recommendations for management of threatened and endangered species on the Facility, the Proposed Action would be expected to provide long-term positive impacts to the threatened or endangered species of the Facility. As such, no short- or long-term adverse impacts are anticipated to occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

No Section 7 under the Endangered Species Act is required at this time. Section 7 will be conducted on a case-by-case basis for individual projects in the INRMP as necessary.

#### *4.7.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative*

Conditions would remain unchanged if the No Action Alternative were implemented. No biological resource impacts would occur. The present practice of periodically quantifying and

evaluating biological resources at KSTC would occur; however, this evaluation would not address the most current training practices at the KSTC.

#### *4.7.3 Mitigation Measures*

Under the Proposed Action, measures will be in place to minimize adverse environmental impacts brought on by practices at the KSTC, if necessary. Through the implementation of the revised INRMP, impacts to natural resources such as wetlands, waterbodies, and wildlife will be avoided to the extent possible. If avoidance is not possible, the impacts will be minimized by limiting the types of activities that may occur. Work plans will revolve around BMPs to support the mission and ensure ecosystem management.

#### *4.8 Cultural Resources*

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative were evaluated against the following significance criteria to determine if they would result in a significant impact to cultural resources:

- Alternative would degrade, or cause neglect of, an archaeological site, NRHP-listed or eligible resource, or cemetery.
- Alternative would degrade, or decrease access to, cultural resources of value to federally recognized Native American tribes.

##### *4.8.1 Effects of the Proposed Action*

Consultation with the Kansas Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office indicated that the ICRMP's listing of cultural resource listings for archaeological sites and NRHP-listed or eligible properties was correct, and that the Proposed Action would not impact these resources.

Consultation letters describing the Proposed Action were submitted to the Osage Nation, Kaw Nation, and Wichita Tribe. As responses were not received for the initial letters sent to the tribes on 27 December 2017, additional letters (14 August 2018, and 17 September 2018) were mailed in accordance with the 2011 ARNG NEPA Handbook). No responses specific to the Proposed Action were received from the Osage Nation, Kaw Nation, or Wichita Tribe.

Any natural resources management activities proposed in the INRMP that may impact cultural resources would go through the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation process with the Kansas State Historic Preservation Officer before any undertaking occurred on historic properties eligible or listed on the National Register or those historic properties not yet surveyed. Each activity in the INRMP would be in accordance with the ICRMP and would comply

with all applicable federal and state cultural resources requirements and would be coordinated through the KSARNG Environmental Office. However, because no culturally-significant resources were identified within the project area by the SHPO or any of the tribes, no short- or long-term environmental impacts are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action.

#### *4.8.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative*

As the KSTC is comprised of federally-owned land, all projects are currently subject to review by the Kansas SHPO Officer. This review will not change as a result of implementation of the 2018 INRMP.

#### *4.8.3 Mitigation Measures*

No mitigation measures will be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels.

### **4.9 BMP and Mitigation Measures**

Measures to manage or mitigate effects to below the significance threshold would not be required for the Proposed Action or No Action alternative because no significant impacts are projected.

This EA is a programmatic assessment of implementing an INRMP at the KSTC. The INRMP is thus a BMP manual in itself that identifies and describes the various management practices and standard operating procedures that will be utilized in natural resource management by the KSARNG.

The following BMPs are described in the 2018 revised INRMP:

- Biological resources: Conduct routine wildlife surveys (every five years) to assess potential presence of threatened/endangered species and species in need of conservation, and determine habitat management once species are identified. Re-stock fish ponds as needed.
- Water resources protection: Follow KSTC soil management plan. Revegetate disturbed areas where excessive land use has damaged existing vegetation. Utilize silt fences during construction activities. Monitor ditches for sediment. Monitor and restore wetlands as necessary.

- Vegetation/Woodlands Management: Use of prescribed fires to improve and maintain the native and agricultural resources within the KSTC. Follow KSTC Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP).
- Cultural Resources Protection: Follow requirements outlined by Section 106 and Section 110 of the NHPA to ensure upcoming construction does not interfere with cultural resources.

It should be noted that BMPs are intended to prevent adverse impacts to the environment, while mitigation measures are utilized to reduce the severity of the impact. Although several BMPs are utilized at the KSTC, no mitigation activities are required.

#### 4.10 Cumulative Effects

Based on the definition provided in 40 CFR 1508.7, cumulative impact is defined as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.”

Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions in the vicinity of the Proposed Action analyzed in this EA include the following:

- Residential, commercial, or industrial development of the land in the vicinity of the KSTC
- Development of infrastructure such as roadways or utilities

##### *4.10.1 Cumulative Effects within the Area*

The KSTC is located outside of the City limits of Salina, and is surrounded by land within the jurisdiction of Saline County. According to the US Census Bureau, Saline County has experienced a population decline of 0.34 percent between 2015 and 2016. According to the 2008 Saline County Comprehensive Plan, since the early 1990s, the county has seen growth occur in the southern and eastern portions of Salina. The KSTC, southwest of the City of Salina, is located in an area of the county that has experienced relatively stagnant growth in the past three decades.

Although the county has experienced negative growth in recent years, the Saline County Comprehensive Plan indicates provides the following planning issues on which the county staff are focused:

- Preservation of agricultural land
- Development review standards and process
- Rural road system development
- Avoiding natural hazards
- Protecting the Smoky Hill Weapons Range
- Establish policies for rural residential development.

The KSTC is located in a rural agricultural area where cropland is the predominant land use. Agricultural depends on natural resources - land, water, biodiversity, forests, pastures, and wildlife. Crop production activities can also have major impacts on the quality and availability of these resources well beyond the boundaries of the cropland (for example, downstream pollution from use of pesticides and herbicides, as well as soil erosion). Farmers also frequently depend on natural resources to meet other needs, such as fuel, construction materials, and supplemental foods. As such, these rural livelihoods are intricately linked to the condition of natural resources. Generally, the farmers in the vicinity of the KSTC value natural resources and effectively manage their land to provide for natural resource concerns. The beneficial effects of natural resource management on nearby private properties combined with the beneficial effects of implementing the Proposed Action will result in a cumulative beneficial effect on natural resources.

#### *4.10.2 Cumulative Effects of the Proposed Action*

The Proposed Action would carry out a coordinated and integrated program to provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources at the KSTC consistent with its use as a military training facility. This program will provide for: conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources; the sustainable multipurpose use of the resources, which shall include hunting, fishing, livestock grazing, and other non-consumptive uses. In general, the goals and objectives of the Proposed Action are designed to create intentional, long-term beneficial cumulative impacts to most resources. Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in no significant adverse cumulative effects.

To determine the cumulative effects of the Proposed Action, information regarding growth or development was sought from the Saline County planning department and the Kansas Department of Transportation. Neither entity was aware of any plans for development in the vicinity of the KSTC. Additionally, no known commercial developments are planned in the vicinity

of the KSTC. Furthermore, the Proposed Action is not anticipated to result in an increase in traffic, air quality emissions, or impacts to land use on properties adjacent to the KSTC.

#### *4.10.3 Interrelationship of Cumulative Effects*

The past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions are not expected to have an adverse cumulative effect in conjunction with the implementation of the Proposed Action. Measures included in the INRMP would provide guidance to protect natural resources at the KSTC while implementing the INRMP.

Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in less than significant adverse cumulative effects as all natural resource management activities will be coordinated with multiple entities both internally and with adjacent landowners and neighboring local, state, and federal agencies resulting in more strategic cross-boundary implementation of actions.

In summary, the Proposed Action would not have measurable adverse impacts on land use, geology and soils, biological resources, cultural resources; cumulative effects are expected to be insignificant. No significant adverse cumulative impacts to the environment, induced by changes under the Proposed Action, are anticipated within the county. Close coordination between the KARNG and local planning authorities would serve to mitigate any identified potential future land use conflicts.

## 5.0 COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES AND CONCLUSIONS

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This EA has evaluated the potential environmental impacts from the Proposed Action, the implementation of the INRMP at the KSTC in Salina, Kansas as presented in **Section 2.0** (Proposed Action). The potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of implementation of the No Action Alternative have also been evaluated.

### 5.1 Comparison of the Environmental Consequences of the Alternatives

#### Proposed Action Alternative

This EA considers the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action, which is the preferred alternative for implementation of the 2018 Revision to the INRMP at the KSTC. The Proposed Action is needed to comply with the Sikes Act, to support the Facility's military mission and to fulfill the natural resource management goals at the Facility. Army regulations, management plans, and environmental requirements implemented by the KSARNG would ensure activities are in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. The Proposed Action would include the use of numerous BMPs, as described in Chapter 4.0, to avoid, minimize, or prevent significant impacts to environmental and cultural resources.

Potential impacts associated with the implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative have been described throughout Sections 4.1 through 4.10 of this EA.

#### No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, natural resource management would continue under the outdated 2011 INRMP. This alternative has been analyzed as required by NEPA and its implementing regulations. The revised INRMP addresses changes in the operations for the military training mission at the KSTC, including the addition of FARP training, convoy training, increased use of firing ranges, and increased training at Crisis City at the Installation. Additionally, the revisions are required by the Sikes Act, as the existing INRMP is over five years old. Not updating the INRMP would result in continued use of an out-of-date INRMP, and would not allow the document to be revised according to changes in operations at the KSTC.

While the No Action Alternative would not satisfy the purpose of or need for the Proposed Action, this alternative was retained to provide a comparative baseline against which to analyze the effects of the Proposed Action, as required under the CEQ Regulations (40 CFR Part 1502.14). The

No Action Alternative reflects the status quo and serves as a benchmark against which the effects of the Proposed Action can be evaluated.

A comparison of environmental consequences of both evaluated alternatives is provided in **Table 5:**

<b>Table 5: Alternative Comparison Matrix</b>		
<b>Technical Resource Area</b>	<b>No Action Alternative</b>	<b>Preferred Action Alternative</b>
<b>Land Use</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action.	No short-term impacts to land use were identified, because land use will not be immediately impacted by Proposed Action. Long-term positive impact through programmatic monitoring and Best Management Practices described in INRMP.
<b>Air Quality</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action. On-going operations emissions would continue.	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action, as current operations emissions would continue.
<b>Noise</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action.	No short- or long-term impacts to noise are anticipated, as the Proposed Action would not result in increased traffic.
<b>Geology, Topography, and Soils</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action.	No short-term impacts to geology, topography, or soils were identified, because these attributes would not be immediately impacted by Proposed Action. Long-term positive impact through programmatic monitoring and Best Management Practices described in INRMP.
<b>Water Resources</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action.	No short-term impacts to water resources, as the Proposed Action does not directly affect water resources; long-term positive impacts achieved through programmatic monitoring and Best Management Practices described in INRMP.
<b>Biological Resources</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action.	No short-term impacts to biological impacts, as monitoring and evaluating habitat would not lead to short-term impacts. Long-term positive impact through programmatic monitoring and Best Management Practices described in INRMP.
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	No short- or long-term impacts attributable to KSARNG action.	No short- or long-term impacts resulting from Proposed Action, as culturally-significant resources were not evaluated in the project area.

## 5.2 Conclusions

The evaluations and analyses performed within this EA conclude that there would be no significant short term or long term adverse impacts, either individually or cumulatively, to the local environment or quality of life as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Action. No mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. Therefore, it is the conclusion of this EA that a FNSI is appropriate and that an EIS is unnecessary for implementation of the Proposed Action.

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## 7.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

Name	Education & Experience	Primary Responsibilities
Ms. Sadie Robb, AICP Project Manager Lochner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.S. Environmental Science</li> <li>• Master of Urban Planning, Transportation Planning</li> <li>• 9 Years of Experience</li> </ul>	EA task manager; quality control
Mr. Jason Green Environmental Scientist Lochner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.S. Anthropology</li> <li>• M.S. Urban Planning</li> <li>• 15 Years of Experience</li> </ul>	Project scientist; data collection, preparation of EA text
Mr. Sam Mryyan, Ph.D. Chief, Environmental Management Branch, Kansas Army National Guard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ph.D, Civil Engineering</li> <li>• 25 Years of Experience</li> </ul>	Environmental Program Manager/State Environmental Officer; Responsible for overall Management of the KSARNG Environmental Program
Mr. James R. Tubach, REM Adjutant General's Dept.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.S.E. Chemistry and Physics</li> <li>• 10 Years of Experience</li> </ul>	NEPA Manager
Mr. Steven Hallstrom Cultural/Natural Resource Manager Adjutant General's Dept.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.A. Environmental Sciences</li> <li>• 3 Years of Experience</li> </ul>	Natural & Cultural Resource Manager

## 8.0 AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS TO BE CONSULTED

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### **Federal Agencies**

#### **US Army Corps of Engineers – Kansas City District**

Department of the Army  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Kansas City Regulatory Office  
601 East 12th  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

#### **USFWS – Region 6**

Mr. Michael J. LeValley, State Field Supervisor  
United States Department of the Interior  
Ecological Services/Partners for Fish & Wildlife  
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#### **USDA-NRCS, Kansas State Office**

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State Soil Scientist  
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#### **US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 7**

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Acting Freedom of Information Officer  
EPA Region 7  
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Kansas City, KS 66101

### **State Agencies**

#### **Kansas State Historic Preservation Officer**

Ms. Jennie Chinn, Director  
Kansas State Historical Society  
Kansas History Center  
6425 SW 6th Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66615-8682

#### **Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism**

Mr. Eric Johnson, Aquatic Ecologist  
Department of Wildlife & Parks  
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512 SE 25<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Pratt, Kansas 67124-8174

#### **Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Water Resources**

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Division of Water Resources  
Kansas Department of Agriculture  
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Topeka, Kansas 66617-1285

#### **Kansas Biological Survey**

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**Kansas Department of Health and Environment -  
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**Kansas Department of Transportation**

Mr. Randy West, District Engineer  
Kansas Department of Transportation  
1006 N. Third  
P.O. Box 857  
Salina, Kansas 67402-0857

**Native American Tribes**

Osage Nation of Oklahoma

Kaw Nation of Kansas

Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

## APPENDIX A: AGENCY AND PUBLIC COORDINATION AND COMMENTS

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## Robb, Sadie

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**From:** Tubach, James R NFG NG KSARNG (US) <james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2018 12:59 PM  
**To:** Robb, Sadie  
**Cc:** Hallstrom, Steven J NFG NG KSARNG (US)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] KDWPT review, Integrated National Resources Management Plan for KSTC, Saline County (Track# 20180031)  
**Attachments:** Signature Samantha Pounds.jpg; SWAP.pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: Pounds, Samantha [KDWPT] [mailto:Samantha.Pounds@KS.GOV]  
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 12:08 PM  
To: Tubach, James R NFG NG KSARNG (US) <james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil>  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] KDWPT review, Integrated National Resources Management Plan for KSTC, Saline County (Track# 20180031)

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Dear James Tubach,

We have reviewed the information for the proposed revision to the Integrated National Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Saline County, KS. The project was reviewed for potential impacts on crucial wildlife habitats, current state-listed threatened and endangered species and species in need of conservation, and Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism managed areas for which this agency has administrative authority.

We provide the following comments and recommendations:

\* The Kansas State Wildlife Action Plan (2015) replaces the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan (CWCP). Updated conservation issues and goals are outlined in the document and might help with your conservation planning. I have attached a copy for your convenience.

- \* Page 54, Table 5.- Northern Long-eared Bat is designated as a SINC by the State of Kansas.
- \* Page 55-58- Include State listings in species descriptions.
- \* Page 78, 8.7, LM-1:Static Rotation of Controlled Burns- Consider alternating the times of year that a burn takes place to allow for succession of forbs and grasses. To remove trees without burning, Cut Stump Treatments can be effective.
- \* Update scientific names of species within the document.
- \* Apply for a collection permit from our Department when conducting research on the Kansas Training Center. For more information go to:<http://ksoutdoors.com/Services/Education-Exhibition-Collection-and-Salvage-Permits> <  
Caution-<http://ksoutdoors.com/Services/Education-Exhibition-Collection-and-Salvage-Permits> >

Results of our review indicate there will be no significant impacts to crucial wildlife habitats; therefore, no special mitigation measures are recommended. The project will not impact any public recreational areas, nor could we document any potential impacts to currently-listed threatened or endangered species or species in need of conservation. No Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism permits or special authorizations will be needed if construction is started within one year, and no design changes are made in the project plans. Permits may still be required from other agencies, and we recommend consultation with all other applicable regulatory authorities.

Since the Department's recreational land obligations and the State's species listings periodically change, if construction has not started within one year of this date, or if design changes are made in the project plans, the project sponsor must contact this office to verify continued applicability of this assessment report. For our purposes, we consider construction started when advertisements for bids are distributed.

Please consider this email our official review for this project. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments and recommendations. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about the preceding information.

Please direct all review materials electronically to [KDWPT.ess@ks.gov](mailto:KDWPT.ess@ks.gov) to streamline the review process for all parties.

Samantha Pounds

Ecologist, Ecological Services Section

Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism

Pratt, KS 67124



Kansas Historical Society

Sam Brownback, Governor  
Jennie Chinn, Executive Director

KSR&C No. 18-03-024

March 6, 2018

James R. Tubach, REM  
Environmental Scientist  
Adjutant General's Department  
2722 SW Topeka Blvd.  
Topeka, KS 66611

Via Email

Dear Mr. Tubach:

In accordance with 36 CFR 800, the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed your letter dated December 27, 2017 describing plans for production of an Integrated Resources Management Plan (INMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) near Salina. As you noted, the training facility is quite large and contains numerous recorded archeological sites and other cultural resources. They were extensively documented as part of the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) for the larger Smoky Hill National Guard Range, most recently updated in 2012.

In our 2012 review of the overall ICRMP, we noted that the listing of cultural resource priorities for both archeological sites and standing structures/bridges was appropriate. In particular, we found that archeological survey of remaining high potential areas, testing of unevaluated sites, and documentation of potentially eligible structures (including WPA-era bridges and culverts) were correctly identified as priorities. We agreed that plans for the ground training of Army units at Smoky Hill lent some urgency to these priorities, particularly in stream crossing areas. Since we see no changes in the current documentation, we have no objection to preparation of an INMP for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC).

This information is provided at your request to assist you in identifying historic properties, as specified in 36 CFR 800 for Section 106 consultation procedures. If you have questions or need additional information regarding these comments, please contact Tim Weston at 785-272-8681 (ext. 214) or Lauren Jones at 785-272-8681 (ext. 225).

Sincerely,

Jennie Chinn  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Patrick Zollner  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

**From:** Neal David  
**To:** [Tubach, James R NFG NG KSARNG \(US\)](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] INRMP comments for Saline County training center  
**Date:** Monday, February 12, 2018 10:34:42 AM

---

Saline County planning has no comments for your environmental assessment. Any impacts from the facility are minimal to the county's land use development pattern.

David Neal, AICP, CFM

Director

Saline County Planning & Environmental

300 W. Ash, Rm 209

785.309.5813



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Kansas Ecological Services Field Office  
2609 Anderson Avenue  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502-2801

February 12, 2017

James R. Tubach, REM  
Environmental Scientist  
Adjutant General's Department  
2722 SW Topeka Blvd  
Topeka, KS 66611

FWS Tracking # 2018-CPA-0156

Dear Mr. Tubach:

This letter is in response to your request for input and comments to assist with preparation of environmental documentation for revision to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Salina, Kansas.

We have reviewed the permit application pursuant to our authorities under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*); section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344); the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*); the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*); the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*); and executive orders 11990 (wetland protection) and 11988 (floodplain management).

### **General Comments**

Our office recommends, where reasonable and within the limitation of effectively carrying out training exercises, adhering to a general avoidance and minimization of effects to wetlands and native grassland found on the training area. We recommend specifically, to the extent where is possible, that training exercises minimize indirect and direct effects to streams (both perennial and intermittent) and aquifers. Cumulatively protecting watersheds helps to maintain system connectivity and health.

### **Endangered Species**

In accordance with section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act, we have determined that the federally listed, endangered whooping crane (*Grus americana*) may occur near or in the area of

the Kansas Training Center, which lies within the 85% or 100 mile corridor of utilization and occurrence within the state. Therefore, there is minimal risk of potentially adverse effects to migrating whooping cranes at this location. Most risk can be alleviated by following avoidance and minimization measures. We recommend a general awareness of habitats that may be inviting to migrating whooping cranes as stopover sites, (E.g. shallow emergent wetlands, shallow flooded agricultural fields, and shallow flooded grassland habitats), and giving space to any birds that may be detected until their departure from the area.

The northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) is protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) as threatened, and under a 4(d) rule. The 4(d) rule provides flexibility with implementation of the ESA, and allows for limited tree removal projects provided those projects do not occur within 0.25 mile from a known, occupied hibernacula or involve any cutting of known, occupied roost trees during the pup season (June 1 – July 31). There are currently no known maternity roosts or hibernacula near the Kansas Training Center in Salina. As this data is updated, our office will be sure to notify the KSARNG of any changes that would affect operations with regard to the northern long-eared bat.

#### **Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act**

We have reviewed this project for potential effects to species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA).

Please consider the impact that the disturbance of habitat may have in regard to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and primarily to grassland nesting bird species that may be present.

#### **Invasive Species**

Invasive species, both aquatic and terrestrial, are a significant factor in the decline of native flora and fauna. Executive order 13112 Section 2 (3) directs Federal agencies to not authorize, fund, or carry out actions that it believes are likely to result in the introduction or spread of invasive species, and to ensure that all reasonable and prudent measures are taken to minimize risk of harm related to their actions. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) is a valuable planning tool for invasive species control. These tools are available at <http://haccp-nrm.org/>. Additional information on aquatic invasive species control in Kansas can be found on KDWP's website [http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/fishing/aquatic\\_nuisance\\_species](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/fishing/aquatic_nuisance_species).

#### **Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act**

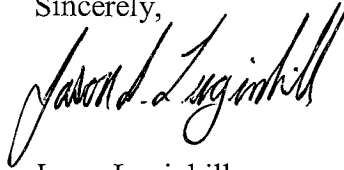
Erosion controls should be employed wherever applicable to ensure that sediment originating from ground disturbance activities does not enter adjacent streams and tributaries.

Good information on best management practices (BMP's) for erosion control can be found at [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/construc/stormwater/BMP\\_Field\\_Master\\_FullSize\\_Final-Jan03.pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/construc/stormwater/BMP_Field_Master_FullSize_Final-Jan03.pdf), and <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/fisheries/streamcrossings/ErosionControl.htm>, or <http://www.kdheks.gov/stormwater/#construct>

We recommend revegetation of disturbed areas with native, warm season grasses, shrubs and trees post-disturbance to further reduce the potential of erosion, and prevent the increased potential of introduction of non-native invasive plant species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project and please accept this letter as our formal response. If you have any further questions, please contact Chris Thornton in this office (785) 539-3474 Ext. 102.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Luginbill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jason" being more prominent and the last name "Luginbill" following in a similar style.

Jason Luginbill  
Field Supervisor

Division of Environment  
Curtis State Office Building  
1000 SW Jackson St., Suite 400  
Topeka, KS 66612-1367



Phone: 785-296-1535  
Fax: 785-559-4264  
www.kdhhs.gov

Jeff Andersen, Acting Secretary

Department of Health & Environment

Sam Brownback, Governor

Comments by: KDHE

Transmittal Date: January 30, 2018

This form provides notification and the opportunity for your agency to review and comments on this proposed project as required by Executive Order 12372. Review Agency, please complete Parts II and III as appropriate and return to the contact person listed below. Your prompt response will be appreciated.

Return To: James R. Tubach, REM  
Environmental Scientist  
Adjutant General's Department  
2722 SW Topeka Blvd.  
Topeka, KS 66611

#### PART I REVIEW AGENCIES/COMMISSION

<input type="checkbox"/> Aging	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> State Forester
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Geological Survey, KS	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health & Environment	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Office, KS
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Society	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife & Parks
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporation Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Social & Rehabilitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce

#### PART II AGENCY REVIEW COMMENTS

COMMENTS: (Attach additional sheet if necessary) Re: August 2017 Revision to the Integrated Natural Resources Plan for the Kansas Training Center, Salina, KS

Please see the enclosed comments from Kevin Moon and Jesse Branham, Bureau of Environmental Remediation for this project.

#### PART III RECOMMENDED ACTION COMMENTS:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clearance of the project should be granted.	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearance of the project should not be delayed but the Applicant should (in the final application) address and clarify the question or concerns indicated above.
<input type="checkbox"/> Clearance of the project should not be granted.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clearance of the project should be delayed until the issues or questions above have been clarified.	<input type="checkbox"/> Request the opportunity to review final application prior to submission to the federal funding agency.
<input type="checkbox"/> Request a State Process Recommendation in concurrence with the above comments	

#### DIVISIONS/ AGENCY/ COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Mitchell".

John W. Mitchell, Director  
Division of Environment

JWM/df

Bureau of Environmental Remediation  
Curtis State Office Building  
1000 SW Jackson St., Suite 410  
Topeka, KS 66612-1367



phone: 785-296-8025  
fax: 785-559-4261  
kevin.moon@ks.gov  
www.kdhcks.gov

Jeff Andersen, Acting Secretary

Department of Health and Environment

Sam Brownback, Governor

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Donna Fisher  
**FROM:** Kevin Moon, P.G.  
**DATE:** January 29, 2018  
**RE:** Intergovernmental Agency Review requested by the Departments of the Army and the Air Force for the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, Salina, Saline County, Kansas

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment Bureau of Environmental Remediation (KDHE/BER), Assessment and Restoration Section, Response and Remediation Unit, has no identified, contaminated Drycleaner or Superfund sites within the vicinity of the proposed project.

Staff members or representatives of the Departments of the Army and the Air Force are welcome to come and view the KDHE/BER files in accordance with the Kansas Open Records Act. Please contact me at (785) 296-8025 or by email at Kevin.Moon@ks.gov if you have any questions.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, KANSAS CITY DISTRICT  
KANOPOLIS REGULATORY SATELLITE OFFICE  
107 RIVERSIDE DRIVE  
MARQUETTE, KANSAS 67464

29 January 2018

CENWK-ODR-KK (NWK-2018-00141)

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. James R. Tubach, REM, Environmental Scientist, Adjutant General's Department, 2722 SW Topeka Boulevard, Topeka, Kansas 66611

SUBJECT: 27 December 2017, letter requesting agency input concerning the August 2017, revision to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Salina, Kansas.

1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has jurisdiction over all waters of the United States. Discharges of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States, including wetlands, require compliance determination(s) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (S404CWA) (Title 33 United States Code Section 1344). The implementing regulation for this Act is found at Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 320-332.
2. The KSTC is a large geographic area containing numerous streams, wetlands, ponds and potential other aquatic resources. A review of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) and Topographic Maps, Smolan and Falun 1:24,000 Quadrangles and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) National Wetland Inventory Map indicates the presence of numerous streams, ponds and wetlands that are subject to S404CWA.
3. No federally designated navigable waterways, subject to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, are located within the KSTC.
4. Management activities requiring the discharge of dredged or fill material in Waters of the United States, requires S404CWA compliance, unless otherwise exempt from Regulation.
5. Should any activities require the discharge of dredged or fill material into Waters of the United States, please feel free to contact the Corps of Engineers, Kanopolis Regulatory Satellite Office at the above address or by phone at (785) 546-2130, for further guidance and information.
6. Matthew Mikulecky, Regulatory Team Leader, reviewed the information provided and may be contacted directly at (816) 389-3027 or via email: [matthew.j.mikulecky@usace.army.mil](mailto:matthew.j.mikulecky@usace.army.mil).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Matthew J. Mikulecky", is positioned below the "Respectfully," text.

Matthew J. Mikulecky  
Regulatory Team Leader  
Kanopolis Regulatory Satellite Office

**Robb, Sadie**

---

**From:** Tubach, James R NFG NG KSARNG (US) <james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2018 8:28 AM  
**To:** Robb, Sadie; Hallstrom, Steven J NFG NG KSARNG (US)  
**Cc:** Mryyan, M A (Sam) NFG NG KSARNG (US)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] INRMP for Kansas Training Center  
**Attachments:** image001.png

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Jacqueline Rodgers [mailto:jrodgers@osagenation-nsn.gov]  
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2018 9:38 AM  
To: Tubach, James R NFG NG KSARNG (US) <james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil>  
Cc: Andrea Hunter <ahunter@osagenation-nsn.gov>  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] INRMP for Kansas Training Center

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

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Good morning,

The Osage Nation has received notification for the revision to the INRMP for the Kansas Training Center in Salina, Kansas. We request that a tribal consultation meeting be conducted with all tribes. We are offering to host the meeting in Pawhuska, Oklahoma at a time that is most convenient for all parties.

Thank you for consulting with the Osage Nation on this project.

Sincerely,

Jackie Rodgers  
Archaeologist, MA, RPA

627 Grandview Avenue, Pawhuska, OK 74056

Office: 918-287-5494

[jrodgers@osagenation-nsn.gov](mailto:jrodgers@osagenation-nsn.gov) < Caution-mailto:jrodgers@osagenation-nsn.gov >

Bureau of Environmental Remediation  
Curtis State Office Building  
1000 SW Jackson St., Suite 410  
Topeka, KS 66612-1367



phone: 785-291-3089  
fax: 785-559-4261  
Jesse.Branham@ks.gov  
www.kdheks.gov

Jeff Anderson, Acting Secretary

Department of Health and Environment

Sam Brownback, Governor

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Donna Fisher  
**FROM:** Jesse Branham  
**DATE:** January 25, 2018  
**RE:** Agency Review for Salina, Kansas; 2017 Revision to the Kansas Training Center Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, KS DUD date 01/30/2018

---

Assessment and Restoration Section – Brownfields and Orphans Site Program notes no known sites within the project area. Clearance for the project should be granted.

Staff members or representatives for the City of Salina are welcome to come and view the KDHE/BER files in accordance with the Kansas Open Records Act. Please contact me at 785-291-3089 or Jesse.Branham@ks.gov if you have any questions.

1320 Research Park Drive  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502  
(785) 564-6700



900 SW Jackson, Room 456  
Topeka, Kansas 66612  
(785) 296-3556

Jackie McClaskey, Secretary

Governor Sam Brownback

JAMES R TUBACH REM  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT  
2722 SW TOPEKA BLVD  
TOPEKA KS 66611  
Email: james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil

January 24, 2018

RE: Kansas Training Center (KSTC) Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP)

Mr. Tubach:

This correspondence will acknowledge receipt of your environmental review request for the KSTC INRMP. This review request was received in our office on January 11, 2018.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation has noted that this site is not within an organized watershed district and therefore has no comment on the site.

The Water Structures Program of the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources has noted that the area currently identified has FEMA delineated floodplains and Kansas designated streams within the boundaries documented. The site may require permitting through the Water Structures Program. For further information, please contact Janelle Phillips, P.E. (785) 564-6656.

The Water Appropriations Program of the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources currently has no issues with the proposed site.

Please note the following:

The Kansas Department of Agriculture partners with the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) to make portions of our water right information available to the public on a site-specific basis, the download site for wells with water rights can be found here: <http://hercules.kgs.ku.edu/geohydro/wimas/index.cfm>

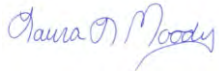
KGS also provides a download site for wells from drillers logs reports (to see domestic-not permitted wells): <http://www.kgs.ku.edu/Magellan/WaterWell/index.html>

Water bodies, streams etc. can be found in shapefile/geodatabase for as provided by the State of Kansas GIS Data Access & Support Center: <http://www.kansasgis.org/>

Additionally, defining local aquifers may be a task your local Regional Advisory Committee might be working toward, some are but I am not familiar enough with each one's goals to say precisely: <https://kwo.ks.gov/about-the-kwo/regional-advisory-committees>

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura L. Moody". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Laura L Moody  
Data Management/Environmental Reviews  
Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Division of Water Resources  
(785) 564-6674  
[laura.moody@ks.gov](mailto:laura.moody@ks.gov)  
<http://agriculture.ks.gov/dwr>

## Robb, Sadie

---

**From:** Tubach, James R NFG NG KSARNG (US) <james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2018 2:52 PM  
**To:** Robb, Sadie  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Information Request for KSARNG for INRMP  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.jpg

-----Original Message-----

From: James Roudybush [KDOT] [mailto:James.Roudybush@ks.gov]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 2:36 PM  
To: Tubach, James R NFG NG KSARNG (US) <james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil>  
Cc: Randy West [KDOT] <Randy.West@ks.gov>  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Information Request for KSARNG for INRMP

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

---

James R. Tubach, REM

I'm am responding to a letter we received on January 23, 2018 dated December 27, 2017. The KDOT, District 2 is not aware of any concerns for "Potential environmental concerns or issues" or "Traffic, noise, land use, or socioeconomic concerns" for the vicinity of the INRMP as shown in the attached exhibits of the letter. You may want to contact the City of Salina and the Saline County Engineer for more local information that we do not possess.

Thanks,

James J.Roudybush, P.E.

Kansas Department of Transportation

District II Maintenance Engineer

Office: (785) 823-3754

Cell: (785) 826-6798

Fax: (785) 823-1649

Hearing Impaired - 711

email:James.Roudybush@ks.gov < Caution-mailto:James.Roudybush@ks.gov >

This electronic transmission is intended for the addressee(s) named above. It contains information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise protected from use and disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, disclosure, copying, or dissemination of this transmission, or the taking of any action in reliance on its contents, or other use is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the sender that this message was received in error and then delete this message.

PPlease do not print this e-mail unless absolutely necessary... Go GREEN!



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

27 December 2017

Ms. Dianna Whitaker  
Acting Freedom of Information Officer  
EPA Region 7  
901 N. 5th St.  
Kansas City, KS 66101

Dear Ms. Whitaker:

The Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) is preparing environmental documentation for the August 2017 revision to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Salina, Kansas. The purpose of the INRMP is to enable the KSTC to manage effectively the use and condition of natural resources located in the area encompassed by the INRMP to protect the natural setting primarily for training purposes.

The revised INRMP is a proposed action that requires review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Army Regulation (AR) 200-2 *Environmental Effects of Army Actions* prior to implementation of its projects, objectives, and goals. The initial implementation of this plan requires preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with NEPA requirements, with topics related to the effects of the proposed plan on natural and cultural resources.

An EA document is currently being drafted to evaluate the environmental, cultural, and social impacts associated with the implementation of the updated INRMP, pursuant to NEPA, as amended (42 U.S. Code [USC] 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651; as well as the NGB NEPA Manual – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA* (NGB, June 2006). Coordination is ongoing with pertinent regulatory agencies governing the site, such as the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Bureau of Water (BOW).

**Information Request:** While the KSARNG maintains a wealth of current environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic data, we are seeking your input into this process concerning any specific environmental issues or concerns your agency may have. Information your agency can provide on any of the following environmental issue areas (at or in the vicinity of the area encompassed by the INRMP as depicted in the attached exhibits) would be appreciated:

- Potential environmental concerns or issues.
- Surface and groundwater resources, including streams, wetlands, floodplains, open water features, wells, and local aquifers.
- Federally- or state-listed threatened or endangered species, or any species proposed for such listing, or critical habitat for such species that may occur within a one-mile radius around the proposed sites.
- Parks, nature preserves, conservation areas, designated wild or scenic rivers, migratory bird habitats, or special wildlife features.
- Pertinent soils and geologic data.
- Traffic, noise, or socioeconomic concerns.
- Air quality concerns; and/or
- Additional environmental, cultural, land use, or socioeconomic information or concerns your agency may have with regard to the referenced sites.

Other Agencies and Organizations: A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in Attachment 4. Should you know of any additional Agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this Proposed Action, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information.

We look forward to and welcome your participation in this analysis. Please respond on or before 31 January 2018 to enable us to complete this phase of the project within the scheduled timeframe.

**Please send your written responses via regular mail or e-mail (preferred) to:**

James R. Tubach, REM  
Environmental Scientist  
Adjutant General's Department  
2722 SW Topeka Blvd  
Topeka KS 66611  
[james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil)

We thank you in advance for your assistance and attention in this matter. Should you have any questions, comments, or require additional information please feel free to contact James Tubach at (785) 646-1176 or the undersigned at (785) 646-1154.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sam Mryyan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sam" and last name "Mryyan" clearly distinguishable.

Sam Mryyan, Ph.D.

Chief, Environmental Management Branch  
Kansas Army National Guard

**Enclosures:**

**Exhibit 1:** Vicinity Map

**Exhibit 2:** Site Map

**Exhibit 3:** Topographic Map

**Exhibit 4:** List of Agencies and Organizations Contacted



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

27 December 2017

Kaw Nation  
Drawer 50  
Kaw City, OK 74641

To Whom It May Concern:

The Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) is preparing environmental documentation for the August 2017 revision to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Salina, Kansas. The purpose of the INRMP is to enable the KSTC to manage effectively the use and condition of natural resources located in the area encompassed by the INRMP to protect the natural setting primarily for training purposes.

The revised INRMP is a proposed action that requires review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Army Regulation (AR) 200-2 *Environmental Effects of Army Actions* prior to implementation of its projects, objectives, and goals. The initial implementation of this plan requires preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with NEPA requirements, with topics related to the effects of the proposed plan on natural and cultural resources.

An EA document is currently being drafted to evaluate the environmental, cultural, and social impacts associated with the implementation of the updated INRMP, pursuant to NEPA, as amended (42 U.S. Code [USC] 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651; as well as the NGB NEPA Manual – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA* (NGB, June 2006). Coordination is ongoing with pertinent regulatory agencies governing the site, such as the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Bureau of Water (BOW).

**Information Request:** While the KSARNG maintains a wealth of current environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic data, we are seeking your input into this process concerning any specific Tribal issues or concerns your agency may have. Information your Tribe can provide on any environmental, historic, or cultural resource concerns (at or in the vicinity of the area encompassed by the INRMP as depicted in the attached exhibits) would be appreciated:

Other Agencies and Organizations: A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in Attachment 4. Should you know of any additional Agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this Proposed Action, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information.

We look forward to and welcome your participation in this analysis. Please respond on or before 31 January 2018 to enable us to complete this phase of the project within the scheduled timeframe.

**Please send your written responses via regular mail or e-mail (preferred) to:**

James R. Tubach, REM  
Environmental Scientist  
Adjutant General's Department  
2722 SW Topeka Blvd  
Topeka KS 66611  
[james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil)

We thank you in advance for your assistance and attention in this matter. Should you have any questions, comments, or require additional information please feel free to contact James Tubach at (785) 646-1176 or the undersigned at (785) 646-1154.

Sincerely,



Sam Mryyah, Ph.D.  
Chief, Environmental Management Branch  
Kansas Army National Guard

**Enclosures:**

- Exhibit 1:** Vicinity Map
- Exhibit 2:** Site Map
- Exhibit 3:** Topographic Map
- Exhibit 4:** List of Agencies and Organizations Contacted



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

27 December 2017

Ms. Jennifer Delisle, Information Manager  
Kansas Biological Survey  
The University of Kansas  
2101 Constant Avenue, Room 106  
Lawrence, Kansas 66047-3759

Dear Mr. Delisle:

The Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) is preparing environmental documentation for the August 2017 revision to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Salina, Kansas. The purpose of the INRMP is to enable the KSTC to manage effectively the use and condition of natural resources located in the area encompassed by the INRMP to protect the natural setting primarily for training purposes.

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- Potential environmental concerns or issues.
- Federally- or state-listed threatened or endangered species, or any species proposed for such listing, or critical habitat for such species that may occur within a one-mile radius around the proposed sites.
- Parks, nature preserves, conservation areas, designated wild or scenic rivers, migratory bird habitats, or special wildlife features.

Other Agencies and Organizations: A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in Attachment 4. Should you know of any additional Agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this Proposed Action, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information.


We look forward to and welcome your participation in this analysis. Please respond on or before 31 January 2018 to enable us to complete this phase of the project within the scheduled timeframe.

**Please send your written responses via regular mail or e-mail (preferred) to:**

James R. Tubach, REM  
Environmental Scientist  
Adjutant General's Department  
2722 SW Topeka Blvd  
Topeka KS 66611  
[james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil)

We thank you in advance for your assistance and attention in this matter. Should you have any questions, comments, or require additional information please feel free to contact James Tubach at (785) 646-1176 or the undersigned at (785) 646-1154.

Sincerely,



Sam Mryyan, Ph.D.  
Chief, Environmental Management Branch  
Kansas Army National Guard

**Enclosures:**

- Exhibit 1:** Vicinity Map
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DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

27 December 2017

Mr. David Barfield, Chief Engineer-Director  
Division of Water Resources  
Kansas Department of Agriculture  
901 South Kansas Avenue, Second Floor  
Topeka, Kansas 66617-1285

Dear Mr. Barfield:

The Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) is preparing environmental documentation for the August 2017 revision to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Salina, Kansas. The purpose of the INRMP is to enable the KSTC to manage effectively the use and condition of natural resources located in the area encompassed by the INRMP to protect the natural setting primarily for training purposes.

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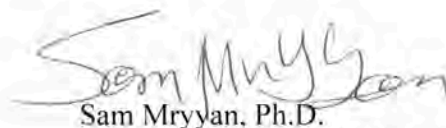
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Chief, Environmental Management Branch  
Kansas Army National Guard

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JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

27 December 2017

Ms. Donna Fisher  
Curtis State Office Building  
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 400  
Topeka, Kansas 66620-0001

Dear Ms. Fisher:

The Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) is preparing environmental documentation for the August 2017 revision to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Salina, Kansas. The purpose of the INRMP is to enable the KSTC to manage effectively the use and condition of natural resources located in the area encompassed by the INRMP to protect the natural setting primarily for training purposes.

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**Information Request:** While the KSARNG maintains a wealth of current environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic data, we are seeking your input into this process concerning any specific environmental issues or concerns your agency may have. Information your agency can provide on any of the following environmental issue areas (at or in the vicinity of the area encompassed by the INRMP as depicted in the attached exhibits) would be appreciated:

- Potential environmental concerns or issues.
- Pertinent soils and geologic data.
- Traffic, noise, or socioeconomic concerns.
- Air quality concerns; and/or
- Additional environmental, cultural, land use, or socioeconomic information.

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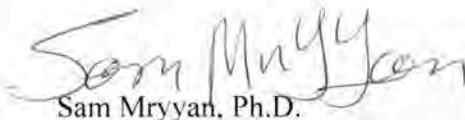
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DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

27 December 2017

Mr. Randy West  
District Engineer  
Kansas Department of Transportation  
1006 N. Third  
P.O. Box 857  
Salina, Kansas 67402-0857

Dear Mr. West:

The Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) is preparing environmental documentation for the August 2017 revision to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Salina, Kansas. The purpose of the INRMP is to enable the KSTC to manage effectively the use and condition of natural resources located in the area encompassed by the INRMP to protect the natural setting primarily for training purposes.

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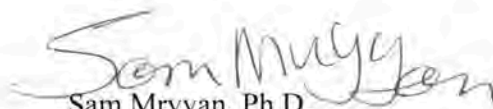
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JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

27 December 2017

Mr. Eric Johnson, Aquatic Ecologist  
Department of Wildlife & Parks  
Environmental Services Section, Operations Office  
512 SE 25th Ave.  
Pratt, Kansas 67124-8174

Dear Mr. Johnson:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Mryyan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sam" being more prominent than the last name "Mryyan".

Sam Mryyan, Ph.D.  
Chief, Environmental Management Branch  
Kansas Army National Guard

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JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

27 December 2017

Mr. Tracy Streeter, Director  
Kansas Water Office  
Suite 300, 109 SW 9th Street  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1367

Dear Mr. Streeter:

The Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) is preparing environmental documentation for the August 2017 revision to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Salina, Kansas. The purpose of the INRMP is to enable the KSTC to manage effectively the use and condition of natural resources located in the area encompassed by the INRMP to protect the natural setting primarily for training purposes.

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TOPEKA, KS 66611

27 December 2017

Mr. Jeff Hellerich  
State Soil Scientist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
760 South Broadway Boulevard  
Salina, Kansas 67401-4604

Dear Mr. Hellerich:

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- Additional environmental, cultural, land use, or socioeconomic information or concerns your agency may have with regard to the referenced sites.

It should be noted that no land is planned to be converted as part of this action; we are requesting information on land currently utilized by the KSARNG for training purposes in an effort to better protect environmental resources. Since no additional land conversion is planned, an AD-1006 form is not being included with this request.

Other Agencies and Organizations: A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in Attachment 4. Should you know of any additional Agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this Proposed Action, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information.

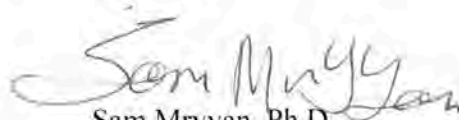
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2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

27 December 2017

Osage Nation of Oklahoma  
Dr. Andrea A. Hunter  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
627 Grandview  
Pawhusta, OK 74056

Dear Dr. Hunter:

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**Information Request:** While the KSARNG maintains a wealth of current environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic data, we are seeking your input into this process concerning any specific Tribal issues or concerns your agency may have. Information your Tribe can provide on any environmental, historic, or cultural resource concerns (at or in the vicinity of the area encompassed by the INRMP as depicted in the attached exhibits) would be appreciated:

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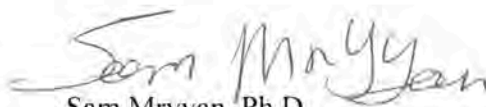
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DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

27 December 2017

Ms. Jennie Chinn, Director  
Kansas State Historical Society  
Kansas History Center  
6425 SW 6th Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66615-8682

Dear Ms. Chinn:

The Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) is preparing environmental documentation for the August 2017 revision to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Salina, Kansas. The purpose of the INRMP is to enable the KSTC to manage effectively the use and condition of natural resources located in the area encompassed by the INRMP to protect the natural setting primarily for training purposes.

The revised INRMP is a proposed action that requires review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Army Regulation (AR) 200-2 *Environmental Effects of Army Actions* prior to implementation of its projects, objectives, and goals. The initial implementation of this plan requires preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with NEPA requirements, with topics related to the effects of the proposed plan on natural and cultural resources.

An EA document is currently being drafted to evaluate the environmental, cultural, and social impacts associated with the implementation of the updated INRMP, pursuant to NEPA, as amended (42 U.S. Code [USC] 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651; as well as the NGB NEPA Manual – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA* (NGB, June 2006). Coordination is ongoing with pertinent regulatory agencies governing the site, such as the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Bureau of Water (BOW).

**Information Request:** While the KSARNG maintains a wealth of current environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic data, we are seeking your input into this process concerning any specific environmental issues or concerns your agency may have. Information your agency can provide on any of the following environmental issue areas (at or in the vicinity of the area encompassed by the INRMP as depicted in the attached exhibits) would be appreciated:

- Potential environmental concerns or issues.
- Cultural resources on-site or in the vicinity.
- Parks, nature preserves, or conservation areas.
- Additional environmental, cultural, land use, or socioeconomic information or concerns.

Other Agencies and Organizations: A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in Attachment 4. Should you know of any additional Agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this Proposed Action, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information.

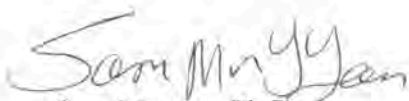
We look forward to and welcome your participation in this analysis. Please respond on or before 31 January 2018 to enable us to complete this phase of the project within the scheduled timeframe.

**Please send your written responses via regular mail or e-mail (preferred) to:**

James R. Tubach, REM  
Environmental Scientist  
Adjutant General's Department  
2722 SW Topeka Blvd  
Topeka KS 66611  
[james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil)

We thank you in advance for your assistance and attention in this matter. Should you have any questions, comments, or require additional information please feel free to contact James Tubach at (785) 646-1176 or the undersigned at (785) 646-1154.

Sincerely,



Sam Mryyan, Ph.D.  
Chief, Environmental Management Branch  
Kansas Army National Guard

**Enclosures:**

- Exhibit 1:** Vicinity Map
- Exhibit 2:** Site Map
- Exhibit 3:** Topographic Map
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DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

27 December 2017

Mr. Mark Frazier, Chief  
Regulatory Branch  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Kansas City Regulatory Office  
601 East 12th  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Dear Mr. Frazier:

The Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) is preparing environmental documentation for the August 2017 revision to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Salina, Kansas. The purpose of the INRMP is to enable the KSTC to manage effectively the use and condition of natural resources located in the area encompassed by the INRMP to protect the natural setting primarily for training purposes.

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An EA document is currently being drafted to evaluate the environmental, cultural, and social impacts associated with the implementation of the updated INRMP, pursuant to NEPA, as amended (42 U.S. Code [USC] 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651; as well as the NGB NEPA Manual – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA* (NGB, June 2006). Coordination is ongoing with pertinent regulatory agencies governing the site, such as the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Bureau of Water (BOW).

**Information Request:** While the KSARNG maintains a wealth of current environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic data, we are seeking your input into this process concerning any specific environmental issues or concerns your agency may have. Information your agency can provide on any of the following environmental issue areas (at or in the vicinity of the area encompassed by the INRMP as depicted in the attached exhibits) would be appreciated:

- Potential environmental concerns or issues.
- Surface and groundwater resources, including streams, wetlands, floodplains, open water features, wells, and local aquifers.
- Pertinent soils and geologic data.

Other Agencies and Organizations: A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in Attachment 4. Should you know of any additional Agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this Proposed Action, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information.

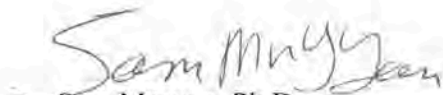
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**Please send your written responses via regular mail or e-mail (preferred) to:**

James R. Tubach, REM  
Environmental Scientist  
Adjutant General's Department  
2722 SW Topeka Blvd  
Topeka KS 66611  
[james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil)

We thank you in advance for your assistance and attention in this matter. Should you have any questions, comments, or require additional information please feel free to contact James Tubach at (785) 646-1176 or the undersigned at (785) 646-1154.

Sincerely,



Sam Mryyan, Ph.D.  
Chief, Environmental Management Branch  
Kansas Army National Guard

**Enclosures:**

- Exhibit 1:** Vicinity Map
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DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

27 December 2017

Mr. Michael J. LeValley, State Field Supervisor  
United States Department of the Interior  
Ecological Services/Partners for Fish & Wildlife  
2609 Anderson Ave.  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502-2801

Dear Mr. LeValley:

The Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) is preparing environmental documentation for the August 2017 revision to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Salina, Kansas. The purpose of the INRMP is to enable the KSTC to manage effectively the use and condition of natural resources located in the area encompassed by the INRMP to protect the natural setting primarily for training purposes.

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An EA document is currently being drafted to evaluate the environmental, cultural, and social impacts associated with the implementation of the updated INRMP, pursuant to NEPA, as amended (42 U.S. Code [USC] 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651; as well as the NGB NEPA Manual – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA* (NGB, June 2006). Coordination is ongoing with pertinent regulatory agencies governing the site, such as the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Bureau of Water (BOW).

**Information Request:** While the KSARNG maintains a wealth of current environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic data, we are seeking your input into this process concerning any specific environmental issues or concerns your agency may have. Information your agency can provide on any of the following environmental issue areas (at or in the vicinity of the area encompassed by the INRMP as depicted in the attached exhibits) would be appreciated:

- Potential environmental concerns or issues.
- Surface and groundwater resources, including streams, wetlands, floodplains, open water features, wells, and local aquifers.
- Federally- or state-listed threatened or endangered species, or any species proposed for such listing, or critical habitat for such species that may occur within a one-mile radius around the proposed sites.
- Parks, nature preserves, conservation areas, designated wild or scenic rivers, migratory bird habitats, or special wildlife features.

Other Agencies and Organizations: A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in Attachment 4. Should you know of any additional Agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this Proposed Action, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information.

We look forward to and welcome your participation in this analysis. Please respond on or before 31 January 2018 to enable us to complete this phase of the project within the scheduled timeframe.

**Please send your written responses via regular mail or e-mail (preferred) to:**

James R. Tubach, REM  
Environmental Scientist  
Adjutant General's Department  
2722 SW Topeka Blvd  
Topeka KS 66611  
[james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil)

We thank you in advance for your assistance and attention in this matter. Should you have any questions, comments, or require additional information please feel free to contact James Tubach at (785) 646-1176 or the undersigned at (785) 646-1154.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sam Mryyan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sam" being more prominent.

Sam Mryyan, Ph.D.  
Chief, Environmental Management Branch  
Kansas Army National Guard

**Enclosures:**

**Exhibit 1:** Vicinity Map

**Exhibit 2:** Site Map

**Exhibit 3:** Topographic Map

**Exhibit 4:** List of Agencies and Organizations Contacted



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

27 December 2017

Wichita and Affiliated Tribes  
PO Box 729  
Anadarko, OK 73005

To Whom It May Concern:

The Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) is preparing environmental documentation for the August 2017 revision to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Salina, Kansas. The purpose of the INRMP is to enable the KSTC to manage effectively the use and condition of natural resources located in the area encompassed by the INRMP to protect the natural setting primarily for training purposes.

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**Information Request:** While the KSARNG maintains a wealth of current environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic data, we are seeking your input into this process concerning any specific Tribal issues or concerns your agency may have. Information your Tribe can provide on any environmental, historic, or cultural resource concerns (at or in the vicinity of the area encompassed by the INRMP as depicted in the attached exhibits) would be appreciated:

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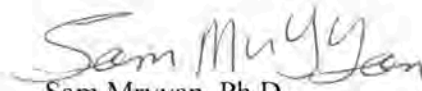
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James R. Tubach, REM  
Environmental Scientist  
Adjutant General's Department  
2722 SW Topeka Blvd  
Topeka KS 66611  
[james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil)

We thank you in advance for your assistance and attention in this matter. Should you have any questions, comments, or require additional information please feel free to contact James Tubach at (785) 646-1176 or the undersigned at (785) 646-1154.

Sincerely,



Sam Mryyan, Ph.D.  
Chief, Environmental Management Branch  
Kansas Army National Guard

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DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

31 January 2018

Mr. David Neal, Director  
Saline County Planning Services  
300 W. Ash, Room 209  
Salina, KS 67401

Dear Mr. Neal:

The Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) is preparing environmental documentation for the August 2017 revision to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Salina, Kansas. The purpose of the INRMP is to enable the KSTC to manage effectively the use and condition of natural resources located in the area encompassed by the INRMP to protect the natural setting primarily for training purposes.

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**Information Request:** While the KSARNG maintains a wealth of current environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic data, we are seeking your input into this process concerning any specific environmental issues or concerns your agency may have. Information your agency can provide on any of the following environmental issue areas (at or in the vicinity of the area encompassed by the INRMP as depicted in the attached exhibits) would be appreciated:

- Potential environmental concerns or issues.
- Traffic, noise, land use, or information regarding any planning initiatives that are relevant to this area.

Other Agencies and Organizations: A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in Attachment 4. Should you know of any additional Agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this Proposed Action, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information.

We look forward to and welcome your participation in this analysis. Please respond on or before 28 February 2018 to enable us to complete this phase of the project within the scheduled timeframe.

**Please send your written responses via regular mail or e-mail (preferred) to:**

James R. Tubach, REM  
Environmental Scientist  
Adjutant General's Department  
2722 SW Topeka Blvd  
Topeka KS 66611  
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We thank you in advance for your assistance and attention in this matter. Should you have any questions, comments, or require additional information please feel free to contact James Tubach at (785) 274-1176 or the undersigned at (785) 646-1154.

Sincerely,



Sam Mryyan, Ph.D.  
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Kansas Army National Guard

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JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

31 January 2018

Mr. Neil Cable, PE  
Saline County Engineer  
3424 Airport Road  
Salina, Kansas 67401

Dear Mr. Cable:

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**Information Request:** While the KSARNG maintains a wealth of current environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic data, we are seeking your input into this process concerning any specific environmental issues or concerns your agency may have. Information your agency can provide on any of the following environmental issue areas (at or in the vicinity of the area encompassed by the INRMP as depicted in the attached exhibits) would be appreciated:

- Potential environmental concerns or issues.
- Traffic, noise, land use, or information regarding transportation plans that Saline County has in this area.

Other Agencies and Organizations: A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in Attachment 4. Should you know of any additional Agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this Proposed Action, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information.

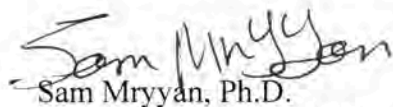
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**Please send your written responses via regular mail or e-mail (preferred) to:**

James R. Tubach, REM  
Environmental Scientist  
Adjutant General's Department  
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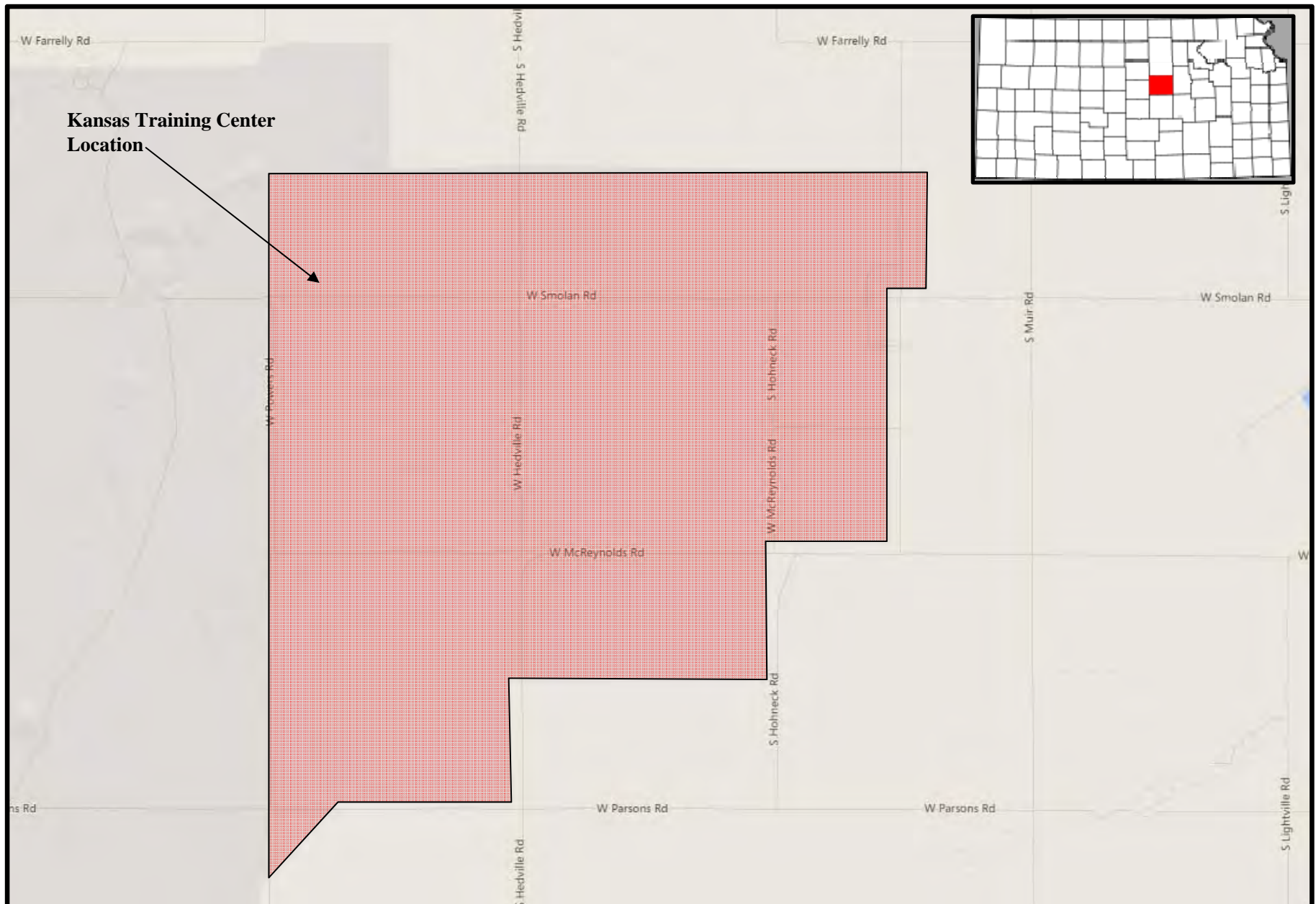
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Chief, Environmental Management Branch  
Kansas Army National Guard

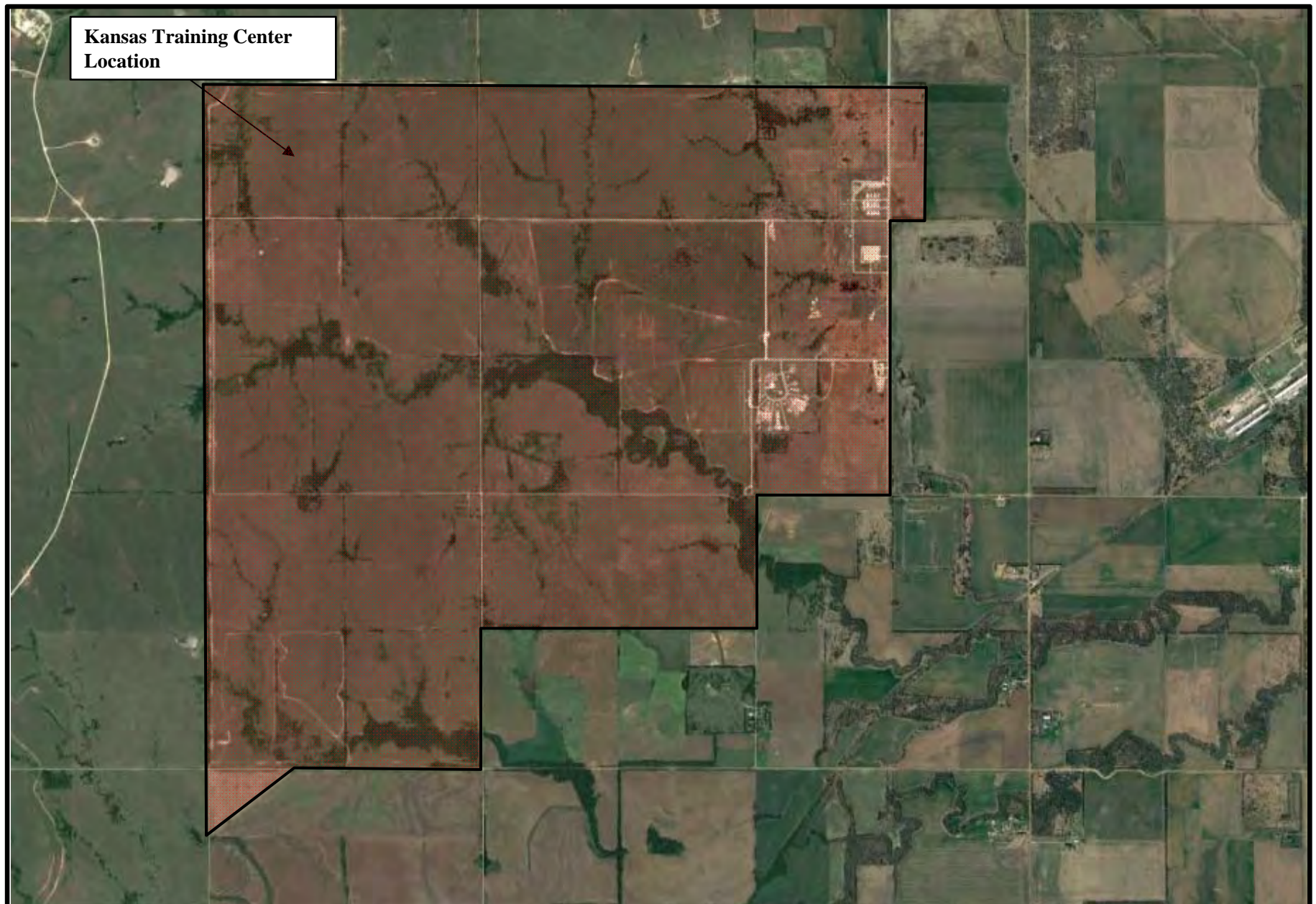
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**Exhibit 1: Vicinity Map**  
**Kansas Training Center**  
**Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan**  
**Source: Bing Maps. Not to Scale.**





**Exhibit 2: Site Map**  
**Kansas Training Center**  
**Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan**  
**Source: Google Maps – 2014 Aerial Image. Not to Scale.**





## **Attachment 4**

### **List of Agencies and Organizations Contacted**

#### **Federal Agencies**

##### **US Army Corps of Engineers – Kansas City District**

Department of the Army  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Kansas City Regulatory Office  
601 East 12th  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

##### **USFWS – Region 6**

Mr. Michael J. LeValley, State Field Supervisor  
United States Department of the Interior  
Ecological Services/Partners for Fish & Wildlife  
2609 Anderson Ave.  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502-2801

##### **USDA-NRCS, Kansas State Office**

Mr. Jeff Hellerich  
State Soil Scientist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
760 South Broadway Boulevard  
Salina, Kansas 67401-4604

##### **US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 7**

Ms. Dianna Whitaker  
Acting Freedom of Information Officer  
EPA Region 7  
901 N. 5th St.  
Kansas City, KS 66101

#### **State Agencies**

##### **Kansas State Historic Preservation Officer**

Ms. Jennie Chinn, Director  
Kansas State Historical Society  
Kansas History Center  
6425 SW 6th Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66615-8682

##### **Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism**

Mr. Eric Johnson, Aquatic Ecologist  
Department of Wildlife & Parks  
Environmental Services Section, Operations Office  
512 SE 25<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Pratt, Kansas 67124-8174

##### **Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Water Resources**

Mr. David Barfield, Chief Engineer-Director  
Division of Water Resources  
Kansas Department of Agriculture  
901 South Kansas Avenue, Second Floor  
Topeka, Kansas 66617-1285

##### **Kansas Biological Survey**

Ms. Jennifer Delisle, Information Manager  
Kansas Biological Survey  
The University of Kansas  
2101 Constant Avenue, Room 106  
Lawrence, Kansas 66047-3759

##### **Kansas Water Office**

Mr. Tracy Streeter, Director  
Kansas Water Office  
Suite 300, 109 SW 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1367

##### **Kansas Department of Health and Environment - Division of Environment**

Ms. Donna Fisher  
Curtis State Office Building  
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 400  
Topeka, Kansas 66620-0001

##### **Kansas Department of Transportation**

Mr. Randy West  
District Engineer  
Kansas Department of Transportation  
1006 N. Third  
P.O. Box 857  
Salina, Kansas 67402-0857

## **Native American Tribes**

### **Wichita and Affiliated Tribes**

PO Box 729  
Anadarko, OK 73005

### **Osage Nation of Oklahoma**

Dr. Andrea A. Hunter  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
627 Grandview  
Pawhusta, OK 74056

### **Kaw Nation**

Drawer 50  
Kaw City, OK 74641

## **Local Entities**

### **Saline County**

Mr. David Neal, Director  
Saline County Planning Services  
300 W. Ash, Room 209  
Salina, KS 67401

Mr. Neil Cable, PE  
Saline County Engineer  
3424 Airport Road  
Salina, KS 67401



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

15 August 2018

Wichita and Affiliated Tribes  
PO Box 729  
Anadarko, OK 73005

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We look forward to and welcome your participation in this analysis. Please respond on or before 17 September 2018 to enable us to complete this phase of the project within the scheduled timeframe. **This is our second attempt to solicit formal comment from your organization; please provide written comments to us via regular mail or e-mail even if your response is "No Comment."**

Please send your written responses via regular mail or e-mail (preferred) to:

James R. Tubach, REM  
Environmental Scientist  
Adjutant General's Department  
2722 SW Topeka Blvd  
Topeka KS 66611  
[james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil)

We thank you in advance for your assistance and attention in this matter. Should you have any questions, comments, or require additional information please feel free to contact James Tubach at (785) 646-0713 or the undersigned at (785) 646-0705.

Sincerely,



Sam Mryyan, Ph.D.  
Chief, Environmental Management Branch  
Kansas Army National Guard

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DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

15 August 2018

Osage Nation of Oklahoma  
Dr. Andrea A. Hunter  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
627 Grandview  
Pawhuska, OK 74056

Dear Dr. Hunter:

The Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) is preparing environmental documentation for the July 2018 revision to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Salina, Kansas. The purpose of the INRMP is to enable the KSTC to manage effectively the use and condition of natural resources located in the area encompassed by the INRMP to protect the natural setting primarily for training purposes.

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Please send your written responses via regular mail or e-mail (preferred) to:

James R. Tubach, REM  
Environmental Scientist  
Adjutant General's Department  
2722 SW Topeka Blvd  
Topeka KS 66611  
[james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil)

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Sincerely,



Sam Mryyan, Ph.D.  
Chief, Environmental Management Branch  
Kansas Army National Guard

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JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

15 August 2018

Crystal Douglas  
Kaw Nation  
P.O. Box 50  
698 Grandview Drive  
Kaw City, OK 74641

Dear Ms. Douglas:

The Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) is preparing environmental documentation for the July 2018 revision to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Salina, Kansas. The purpose of the INRMP is to enable the KSTC to manage effectively the use and condition of natural resources located in the area encompassed by the INRMP to protect the natural setting primarily for training purposes.

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Environmental Scientist  
Adjutant General's Department  
2722 SW Topeka Blvd  
Topeka KS 66611  
[james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:james.r.tubach.nfg@mail.mil)

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Sincerely,



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Chief, Environmental Management Branch  
Kansas Army National Guard

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## SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
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- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

Wichita <sup>1</sup> Affiliated Tribes  
PO Box 72A  
Anadarko, OK 73205



9590 9402 4004 8079 4354 11

7014 1820 0000 8501 7165

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

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A. Signature

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☐ Agent☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

Neesa Franklin

C. Date of Delivery

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If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

3. Service Type

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- ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Certified Mail®
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- ☐ Collect on Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Insured Mail
- ☐ Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500)

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1. Article Addressed to:

Andrea Hunter  
1027 Brandview  
Lawhuser, OK 74050



9590 9402 4004 8079 4354 35

7014 1820 0000 8501 7158

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

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☐ Agent☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

Anthony King

C. Date of Delivery

8-17-18

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes  
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

3. Service Type

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- ☐ Certified Mail®
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- ☐ Collect on Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Insured Mail
- ☐ Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500)

- ☐ Priority Mail Express®
- ☐ Registered Mail™
- ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
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1. Article Addressed to:

Christy Douglas  
PO Box 50, 1098 Brandview  
Law City, OK 74041



9590 9402 4004 8079 4354 28

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7014 1820 0000 8501 7172

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

Domestic Return Receipt

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A. Signature

X

☐ Agent☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

Tammy Cline

C. Date of Delivery

8/17/18

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes  
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

3. Service Type

- ☐ Adult Signature
- ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Certified Mail®
- ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
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- ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
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- ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

3 October 2018

Wichita and Affiliated Tribes  
PO Box 729  
Anadarko, OK 73005

To Whom It May Concern:

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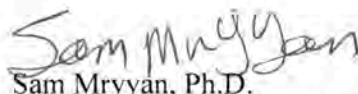
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<input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt (hardcopy)	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt (electronic)	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail Restricted Delivery	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Required	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Restricted Delivery	\$
Postage	\$
Total Postage and Fees	\$
Sent To <i>Osage Nation - attn. Dr. Andrea Hunter</i>	
Street and Apt. No. for PO Box No. <i>627 Grandview</i>	
City, State, ZIP+4® <i>Pawhuska, OK 74050</i>	
PS Form 3800, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9047 See Reverse for Instructions	



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## APPENDIX B: U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

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## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Kansas Ecological Services Field Office  
2609 Anderson Avenue  
Manhattan, KS 66502-2801  
Phone: (785) 539-3474 Fax: (785) 539-8567



In Reply Refer To:

September 05, 2017

Consultation Code: 06E21000-2017-SLI-0721

Event Code: 06E21000-2017-E-01436

Project Name: Kansas Training Center - Environmental Assessment

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the

human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan ([http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle\\_guidance.html](http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html)). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
-

# Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Kansas Ecological Services Field Office**

2609 Anderson Avenue

Manhattan, KS 66502-2801

(785) 539-3474

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## Project Summary

Consultation Code: 06E21000-2017-SLI-0721

Event Code: 06E21000-2017-E-01436

Project Name: Kansas Training Center - Environmental Assessment

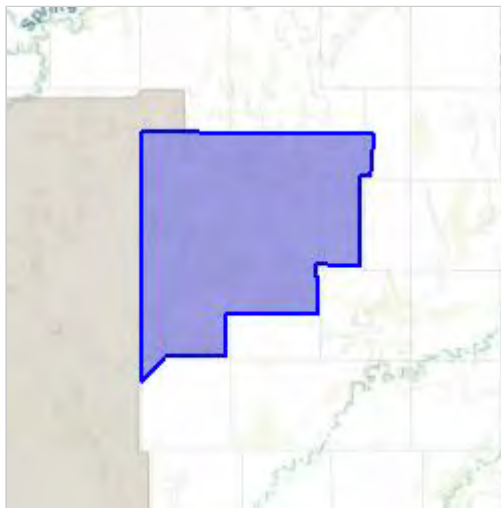
Project Type: \*\* OTHER \*\*

Project Description: Environmental Assessment defining the impacts of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan on the Kansas Training Center.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/38.72750261235833N97.75750637054445W>



Counties: Saline, KS

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## Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 2 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

### Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>	Threatened

### Birds

NAME	STATUS
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population There is a <b>final</b> <a href="#">critical habitat</a> designated for this species. Your location is outside the designated critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758</a>	Endangered

### Critical habitats

There are no critical habitats within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.

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APPENDIX C: INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN  
CHAPTER 8: MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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## 8. Management Goals and Objectives

Effective ecosystem management must be based on clearly stated goals and objectives. This INRMP identifies program elements for which goals and objectives and the means to accomplish them were developed. The INRMP is a mechanism through which both ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation will be accomplished on the KSTC in agreement with the successful accomplishment of the Installation's training mission.

The program elements identified for this INRMP include the following:

- Fish and wildlife management
- Threatened, endangered, and SINC management
- Wetlands and deep water habitats management
- Prairie and woodland management
- Migratory bird management
- Invasive species management
- Land management
- Agricultural out-leasing
- Law enforcement of natural resources management
- Public outreach
- Training of natural resource personnel
- Watershed protection

The process of establishing ecosystem and natural resource management goals for the KSTC focused on considering a reasonable range of resource-specific goals, and from those, objectives and associated actions that can be implemented to achieve balanced natural resources and ecosystem management. The development of natural resource management goals for the KSTC is described below.

**Through this INRMP, the fundamental goal of the KSARNG is to systematically conserve biological diversity and natural resource balances on lands within the context of KSRNG's mission to train troops.**

The KSARNG recognizes that natural ecosystems play a vital role in maintaining a healthy environment, and that natural ecosystems are most effectively managed by protecting the biological diversity of the many organisms - and the ecological processes they perform – as a whole system to the extent that can reasonably be accomplished. Habitat management is key to effective conservation of biological diversity and the protection of listed species. Special consideration is given to soil and vegetation characteristics; surface water; wetlands; archaeological and geological sites; flood plains; and wildlife resources in the development, design, construction, and maintenance of installations and facilities without compromising mission performance.

## **Objectives**

Measurable objectives are established for each of the specific goals developed for each of the program elements of this INRMP. Management objectives have been selected to sustain and enhance natural resources while meeting the operational mission at KSTC. Adaptive ecosystem management provides a means for the KSARNG to both conserve biodiversity and to provide high quality military readiness.

## **Projects and Tasks**

Achievable actions in the form of implementable, measurable projects are identified and listed. Each objective has a framework in which the goals of this INRMP are accomplished, and from which evaluation and analysis of the natural resource program for the KSTC can be conducted. New goals and objectives will be formulated in the continuing management of the Installation.

The following project goals have been developed for the twelve natural resource program elements of this INRMP. Proposed project schedules and estimated budgets are provided in Appendix D.

## **8.1 Fish and Wildlife Management**

The variety of wildlife habitats present at the KSTC, such as wetlands, woodlands, and grasslands, contributes to the diversity of wildlife species found on the Installation. It is important for the KSARNG to maintain and control balanced wildlife populations without limiting the training mission of the Installation. Balanced wildlife populations contribute to the health and sustainability of the KSTC environment through natural control of pests and invasive species and through soil and vegetative productivity. Goals have been developed specifically for wildlife management at the Installation and are listed below (identified as wildlife management (WM) goals).

### **WM GOAL 1: Fish and Wildlife Planning Level Surveys**

Objective: Update fish and wildlife surveys every five years at the KSTC to gather available current scientific data and formulate natural resource management strategies consistent with the KSTC's military mission.

- Projects:
1. Review and revise fish and wildlife survey protocol(s) as necessary
  2. Update fish and wildlife surveys at the KSTC every five years
  3. Implement a program of data review to evaluate and compare survey results to assess wildlife population dynamics and conduct adaptive management where necessary
  4. Develop and implement a program to communicate the results of fish and wildlife surveys with KSARNG command and the KSTC Range Management staff, the USFWS, and KDWPT

Monitoring Criteria: Significant trends observed for any wildlife species will be documented, and adaptive management will be implemented as necessary.

## **WM GOAL 2: Manage Balanced Fish Populations**

Objective: Maintain balanced fish populations in the KSTC ponds

- Projects:
1. Develop a fish management plan for KSTC ponds, including appropriate fish species diversity and populations, aquatic habitat quality maintenance, and stocking if necessary
  2. Monitor fish populations, including species diversity and fish sizes to determine needs for adaptive fish habitat and population management on a two-year basis
  3. Implement fish stocking or habitat improvement as necessary to maintain fish populations

Monitoring Criteria: Sustained fish populations and diversity in ponds will be documented and adaptive management strategies will be implemented as necessary.

## **WM GOAL 3: Manage Balanced Wildlife Populations On-site**

Objectives: Achieve no net loss of wildlife habitat to sustain species.

- Projects:
1. Develop a wildlife management plan
  2. Incorporate a T&E management plan into the wildlife management plan

Monitoring Criteria: Develop and finalize a wildlife management plan, with updates as necessary to maintain or enhance the diversity of wildlife as monitored through WM surveys.

## **WM GOAL 4: Establish a Wildlife Database**

Objective: Update the GIS wildlife database to prioritize wildlife adaptive management techniques by 2022.

- Projects:
1. Develop a comprehensive, family-specific, wildlife database to document the results of the baseline surveys
  2. Update the wildlife database with the results of the five-year surveys
  3. Share results of the five-year surveys with USFWS and KDWPT

Monitoring Criteria: Use the database to organize data from the baseline and subsequent wildlife surveys and compare this to regional trend studies.

## **8.2 Threatened, Endangered, and Species in Need of Conservation Management**

Protection and conservation of T&E and SINC wildlife is an important component of the natural resources at the Installation. Goals have been developed specifically for T&E at the Installation and are listed below (identified as T&E goals). The project goals for T&E species at the KSTC includes comprehensive management actions to conserve and support T&E species and their habitat, if present, on the Installation. These projects include adaptive management strategies, if necessary, that comply with SAIA requirements to conserve and improve site conditions for T&E species while also maintaining the military training missions for the Installation. State-listed and other sensitive species potentially occurring or known to occur on the Installation are listed in Chapter 7.0 of this INRMP, include the Henslow's sparrow, and habitat that would possibly support the short-eared owl, the eastern spotted skunk, and the western hognose snake.

Because the occurrence of T&E species at sites changes, the KSARNG and the Installation must be aware of proper procedures for determining if a Section 7 consultation of the ESA and/or the Kansas Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act may be required in the future. Based on the habitat associations of these species listed in Appendix E, KSARNG natural resources management staff can monitor the appropriate ecological association for rare species known to occur in the region. If no T&E species or their respective habitat are found during baseline monitoring, monitoring for T&E species and their associated habitat will be conducted at five-year intervals.

KSARNG natural resource management staff will work to promote ecosystem-based management in the local region. If and as T&E and SINC species are found at the KSTC, specific actions that conserve habitat and protect these species will be implemented at the Installation. In addition, adherence to the goals set for T&E management will ensure that the KSTC remains in compliance with the ESA and applicable state regulations. To achieve these priorities, the following goals have been identified:

### **T&E GOAL 1: Identify Potential T&E Habitat In and Near KSTC**

Objective: Characterize KSTC habitats related to T&E for site management. Recent wildlife surveys have preliminarily established baselines for potential T&E and SINC species.

- Projects:
1. Conduct an updated T&E survey and habitat survey on the KSTC to identify the presence of potential T&E habitat that occurs on the Installation on a five-year basis
  2. Update the KSARNG GIS database to include T&E habitat, including potential changes to that habitat
  3. Develop and implement an education program for the KSTC Range Management personnel about habitat areas critical to T&E and where they are located on the Installation

Monitoring Criteria: T&E/SINC survey reports and routine updates to the GIS database about changes and status of T&E habitat will act as the monitoring activity of this goal.

### **T&E GOAL 2: Conserve Known T&E Species Habitat**

- Objectives:
1. If T&E or SINC species exist onsite, identify and characterize the area(s) where the species exist, including habitat quality, vegetation, and aquatic features
  2. Determine and develop appropriate habitat management plans for T&E and SINC species
  3. Coordinate T&E information with KSARNG training command for consideration in the development of training operations

- Projects:
1. Identify, map, and communicate locations or occurrences of T&E/SINC habitats to KSARNG command and staff
  2. Develop and produce signage identifying T&E conservation areas
  3. Update GIS database to include T&E numbers and locations
  4. Create a management plan for existing T&E habitat that would protect the species and habitat from potential impacts

Monitoring Criteria: Numbers and locations of T&E/SINC species identified at the KSTC, and acreage of T&E habitat will be used to track the status of T&E species at the KSTC.

### **T&E GOAL 3: Protect SINC Species (Henslow's Sparrow) Avian Nesting Areas**

Objective: Develop an avoidance plan to avoid disruption of Henslow's sparrows' nests on or near the KSTC.

- Projects:
1. Identify and communicate locations or occurrences of Henslow's sparrow or other T&E/SINC avian species nests to KSARNG command and staff
  2. Develop and produce signage identifying Henslow's sparrow nest avoidance areas on the KSTC
  3. Create a management plan to avoid Henslow's sparrow or other T&E/SINC species nesting areas during any activities conducted at the KSTC

## **8.3 Wetlands, Streams, and Deep Water Habitats Management**

The KSTC only has a small area of jurisdictional wetlands (9.29 acres), mostly associated with the stream system at the KSTC. In addition to the wetland areas, three ponds hold water year-

round, although water levels vary depending on precipitation amounts each year, and a fourth pond that will hold water during wet years. Wetlands and deep water habitats are of importance for providing habitat for many species. To minimize the impacts on wetlands and deep water habitats, KSARNG Environmental program personnel strive to conserve healthy, functional wetlands that can sustain minor KSARNG operational influences or impacts. When possible, it is the goal to enhance wetland and deep water functions that maximize the water quality values that wetlands and ponds add to the ecosystem, and to maximize floral diversity of wetland and pond-edge communities that will improve faunal diversity of the ecosystem. It is the goal of KSTC to have no net loss to the function and value of wetlands and deep water habitats existing at KSTC. The goals for wetland, streams, and deep water habitats management (WSW) include the following:

#### **WSW-1: Wetland Inventory Update**

Objective: Wetland and non-wetland Waters of the United States (WOUS) are to be inventoried and mapped for updates to KSARNG command and the KSTC Range Management staff.

Project: Update the wetland and WOUS delineation at the KSTC. Document wetland and non-wetland WOUS results and representative site photographs in the form of a Preliminary Jurisdictional Report.

Monitoring Criteria: Wetlands and tributaries are not static systems. Because of this, and to ensure adherence to current regulations and guidance, wetland and non-wetland WOUS should be identified and monitored at least every five years.

#### **WSW-2: Wetland Monitoring and Maintenance**

Objective: Wetlands will be monitored for function, with necessary maintenance and adaptive management implemented as necessary.

Projects:       1. Eradicate invasive and noxious species  
  
                  2. Plant emergent vegetation and seed graded upland areas with specified species

Monitoring Criteria: Wetlands should be inspected semi-annually for evidence of disturbance and invasive/noxious species. If any wetlands are found to be disturbed, adaptive management techniques should be employed to restore wetland function, as planned.

#### **WSW-3: Pond Monitoring and Maintenance**

Objective: The existing ponds at the KSTC should be monitored for water depth, quality, for maintenance of aquatic habitat, and for support of wildlife species. If and as ponds are found to be too shallow or not holding sufficient water, appropriate maintenance and management is to be completed to restore aquatic function.

- Projects:
1. Develop and implement a pond/aquatic habitat management plan
  2. Update the KSTC Watershed Master Plan to assess water flow and storage in ponds and wetlands
  3. Dredge ponds that become too shallow
  4. Eradicate invasive and noxious species in and around ponds
  5. Plant emergent vegetation and seed graded upland areas with native species
  6. Stock pond with native fish

Monitoring Criteria: Ponds should be inspected semi-annually for evidence of disturbance and invasive/noxious species. Should any of the ponds be found to be disturbed, adaptive management techniques should be employed to restore pond function, as planned.

#### **WSW-4: Update Watershed Management Plan**

Objective: Assess the current physical and biological health of streams at the KSTC.

- Projects:
1. Develop and implement the stream survey protocol
  2. Conduct stream surveys at the KSTC to update the 2008 KSTC Watershed Management Plan
  3. Share results of surveys with the USFWS, the KDWPT, and the KBS, Kansas Water Office, and the KDHE
  4. Use data to evaluate WP and the watershed management study (KSARNG 2008) goals and objectives and modify when necessary

Monitoring Criteria: Significant trends observed in physical and biological health of the streams will be documented and adaptive management techniques will be employed.

## **8.4 Prairie and Woodland Management**

It is the goal of the KSARNG to maintain native prairie and woodland habitat. Prairie and Woodland (PW) management activities at the KSTC are conducted to maintain native habitat that promotes wildlife as well as supports the military training mission. The adaptive ecosystem approach manages these areas primarily through habitat modifications discussed through other program elements of this INRMP. The following program element addresses KSTC's PW goals:

### **PW GOAL 1: Vegetation Planning Level Survey**

Objective: Identify and delineate vegetation cover boundaries and evaluate areas that contain native prairie vegetation, woodland vegetation, and non-native vegetation communities.

Projects: 1. Conduct a prairie vegetation planning level survey

Monitoring Criteria: The completion of the prairie vegetation planning level survey will be documented and include recommendations for adaptive ecosystem management.

### **PW GOAL 2: Conserve Prairie Habitat**

Objective: Enhance and manage prairie habitats.

Projects:

1. Develop a prairie management plan that will conserve and enhance the quality of native prairie vegetative habitat types at the KSTC
2. Develop and implement a training program for KSTC Range Management personnel regarding management and the locations of prairie habitat at the Installation
3. Flag important prairie areas prior to training exercises near those prairie areas
4. Update the Off-road Vehicle Navigation management plan, and implement any improvements to conserve identified critical native prairie habitats in navigation training areas
5. Create and keep current a vegetative cover inventory and GIS database

Monitoring Criteria: Routine review of the prairie vegetative cover inventory will be used to monitor this goal.

### **PW GOAL 3: Mixed-grass Prairie Restoration**

Objective: Identify, restore, and maintain prairie ecosystem areas at the KSTC and reseed to native mixed-grass prairies within 5 years.

Project: Restore or reseed 250 acres of native prairie ecosystem within 5 years

Monitoring Criteria: Monitoring criteria will be based on the increased acreage of restored prairie.

### **PW-4: Location, Density, and Succession of Riparian and Upland Trees**

Objective: Maintain healthy forest ecosystems at KSTC.

Projects: 1. Update the Woodland Survey on a five-year basis (by 2018)

## 2. Update the Prairie Encroachment Survey on a five-year basis

Monitoring Criteria: Woodland and prairie encroachment surveys will be documented and data placed into the KSARNG GIS database. Significant vegetative trends observed for riparian and upland tree populations will be assessed and adaptive management techniques will be employed.

## 8.5 Migratory Bird Management

Wherever possible, KSTC strives to implement cooperative projects and programs on the Installation to benefit the health and well-being of migratory birds and their habitats. KSTC recognizes that migratory bird management (MBM) aids the military mission and also enhances the natural environment. The KSARNG has been conducting avian surveys at the KSTC since 2012 and has developed a preliminary database of bird populations at the Installation. In continual evaluation of bird population trends at the KSTC, the KSARNG will continue avian surveys while also using existing available information and resources available through the DoD Partners in Flight (PIF) program to conduct long-term coordinated bird monitoring (CBM).

### DoD/PIF Programs

The DoD PIF program sustains and enhances the military mission by maintaining healthy landscapes and training lands through proactive, habitat-based conservation and management strategies. The key components of DoD PIF's work are its partnerships at state, regional, national, and international levels.

### Coordinated Bird Monitoring

The Installation lies within Bird Conservation Region # 19. The CBM plan ensures that the DoD meets its legal requirements for monitoring birds in the most cost effective manner possible. Monitoring includes short-term assessments, effectiveness monitoring and long-term status monitoring programs. CBM is an effort to increase the efficiency and utility of bird monitoring through improved coordination.

The MBM program element is described as follows:

### **MBM GOAL 1: Facilitate Migratory Bird Habitat to Meet the Mission of the KSARNG**

Objective: Manage military training with minimal impact to migratory birds.

- Projects:
1. Develop an MBM plan based on the migratory bird surveys, habitat surveys, and researched data about migratory birds that may be present at the Installation
  2. The MBM plan will identify the species of migratory birds that may nest at the KSTC, their preferred habitat, and their preferred time of nesting (generally April 1 through September 1)

3. Develop a program to identify changes nesting sites and habitat
4. Specify any type of activity and the timing of such activities that could impact migratory birds and insert this data into the MBM plan. Clearly state the necessary surveys and steps to complete a permit in the MBM plan
5. Develop and implement a program to communicate results of the avian surveys with USFWS, KDWPT, and the KSARNG training command
6. Implement a management system to avoid haying during nesting times

Monitoring Criteria: Develop and adhere to an MBM plan that includes survey techniques and strategies, survey data evaluation protocols, and reporting requirements.

#### **MBM-2: Long-term Coordinated Bird Monitoring**

Objective: Conduct avian surveys at the KSTC every five years to assess sustaining populations of birds there. With the aforementioned resources, conduct long-term avian surveys on the KSTC to formulate avian conservation strategies.

- Projects:
1. Review and revise the avian survey protocol for the KSTC
  2. Conduct avian surveys on an annual basis using 2012 avian survey protocol
  3. Develop and implement a program to review data and re-evaluate MBM goals and objectives, and conduct adaptive management where necessary

Monitoring Criteria: Evaluate the use of nesting sites annually to observe increased nesting habitat utilization. Significant trends observed for avian populations – especially T&E or SINC species - will be documented and adaptive management techniques will be employed.

## **8.6 Invasive Species Management**

Land management of the properties surrounding the KSTC has the potential to directly affect Installation plans, programs, and activities by inadvertently contributing to the encroachment of invasive, non-native vegetation, and non-native animal species. Invasive species can easily upset the balance of the natural environment of the KSTC, creating inhospitable environments for training, disrupting natural resource management, and potentially allowing vectors of disease to enter onto the Installation property.

EO 13112, Invasive Species, requires all federal agencies to prevent the introduction of invasive species, provide for their control, and minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species cause.

The KSARNG will control invasive species at the KSTC using an ecosystem-based approach that conserves biodiversity while preserving the military mission from associate infringement. To

accomplish effective invasive species management, the following invasive species management (ISM) goals have been identified:

### **ISM GOAL 1: Locate and Identify Invasive Species at the KSTC**

Objectives: Conduct a survey to document the distribution and density of invasive vegetative species at the KSTC.

- Projects:
1. Develop an invasive species survey protocol, conduct an invasive species survey at the KSTC and the communicate results of surveys with USFWS, KDWPT, and NRCS
  2. Review, revise, and implement the KSTC Noxious Weed Work Plan (NWWP, Appendix F), followed by control of invasive vegetation by means of chemical pesticides, fire, and/or native plant seeding if necessary to enhance vegetation competition and reduce invasive species
  3. Develop and implement a program to review data for the evaluation of invasive species distribution and density and develop management prescriptions

Monitoring Criteria: Significant trends observed for any invasive species will be documented and management prescriptions will be employed.

## **8.7 Land Management**

It is the commitment of the KSARNG to manage the lands of the KSTC in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the SAIA and to complete actions that enhance and balance the physical (soil and water) and biological (plant and animal) communities at the Installation. This is a commitment to protecting Installation resources and natural ecological processes. Although ecological knowledge and theories have evolved relatively quickly, the scope and process of land management have had difficulty keeping pace. Ecological processes, including fire and other disturbances, and changing landscape conditions are often not integrated into land management planning and decisions. The following goals address land management (LM) at the KSTC:

### **LM-1: Static Rotation of Controlled Burns**

Objectives: Continue to apply prescription fire on grasslands on the systematic 3-year cycle to promote a mosaic of diverse native vegetation and help reduce invasive species and woody plants.

- Projects:
1. Create and implement a controlled prescription fire plan that will establish a mosaic of burned and un-burned areas. Areas will not be left un-burned for greater than five years due to the succession of woody plants
  2. Conduct prescribed burns later in the year (late April) to help reduce infestations of invasive weeds and maintain invasive trees and shrubs (i.e.

eastern red cedar, Osage orange, and smooth sumac). Foliage is dryer in late April and the ignition of larger trees is more likely

Monitoring Criteria: Evaluate the effectiveness of the prescription fire schedule for the reduction of invasive species.

#### **LM-2: Tallgrass Prairie Restoration**

Objectives: Continue restoration of the prairie ecosystem to a mixed seral stage succession. Restore the ecosystem to a higher quality and functioning native prairie habitat.

- Projects:
1. Conduct invasive species removal and installation of native plant plugs
  2. Continue to restore wetlands that are located on the land navigation course
  3. Implement the use of nesting boxes to provide additional avian habitat
  4. Implement the fire prescriptions outlined in LM-1

Monitoring Criteria: The above action involves the monitoring seral stages and adapting land uses based on the results.

## **8.8 Agricultural Out-leasing**

The KSARNG is committed to maintaining agricultural leases at the KSTC through producing and harvesting forage grasses and controlling invasive species to optimize forage production in identified lease areas. Agricultural out-leasing (AG) to regional producers not only provides the public with access to the Installation for production, but is necessary as a maintenance tool in this ecosystem. Cattle grazing and hay production are used in some local areas to mimic the graze/fire dependent prairie ecosystem. However, due to the potential environmental damage that can result from these activities, management goals have been developed to ensure that these activities remain productive and sustainable while providing beneficial ecosystem results. Leases must be managed to ensure that noxious weeds are controlled, the public is protected from Installation operations, sustainable levels of harvest are conducted, land and facilities are maintained, and that no significant alteration of the ecosystem occurs.

To accomplish effective AG, the following goals are established:

#### **AG-1: Continue to Manage Invasive Woody Vegetation in the Grasslands and Agricultural Leases**

Objective: Control the spread of woody vegetation on the Installation and eliminate small dense patches.

- Projects:
1. Continue to use prescribed burns and additional mechanical removal of woody vegetation
  2. Should infestations be observed, implement biological, physical, or chemical controls under the guidance of the Saline County foresters
  3. In support of the land navigation training mission, allow small controlled patches of woody vegetation to bisect sightlines on the course to create a more realistic training mission
  4. Monitor changes in invasive species annually through visual observation and GPS

Monitoring Criteria: The above action involves controlled management of woody vegetation that will control significant woody encroachment, but will also improve the training mission at the KSTC. Evaluate the effectiveness of the areas where sightlines have grown in.

## **8.9 Public Outreach**

Public outreach (PO) is allowed by instruction (16 U.S.C. 670 Sikes Act), subject to safety requirements and military security. Access has been provided to quality recreational opportunities for military personnel, their families, employees, and the general public. However, if recreational or management activities conflict with military activities, the military mission comes first.

The primary concern related to public access for outdoor recreation is safety. Those unfamiliar with the area and/or military operations and regulations may wander into off limits areas or other restricted areas perhaps putting themselves in danger or causing disruptions to military activities.

Military personnel, their dependents, and their accompanied guests are allowed access to most outdoor recreational activities such as fishing and hunting. The KSTC personnel rely on the responsible public to adhere to Installation policies designed to promote physical security, minimize safety hazards, and protect natural and cultural resources. All visitors to the KSTC are required to be briefed on the dangers of using the Installation. Signs are posted to warn the public of the dangers associated with entering the area.

### **PO-1: Public Outreach Potential**

Objective: Promote the involvement of the KSTC community groups and other agencies to assist with regional conservation efforts, research opportunities, and public outreach programs.

- Projects:
1. Involve high schools, universities, and conservation groups in assisting with subsequent (not baseline) biological surveys at the KSTC

2. The Public Affairs Office (PAO) to develop associated public outreach programs
3. Provide access to the KSTC for research purposes that will benefit regional conservation efforts
4. Analyze the success of associated public outreach programs and adjust order to foster continued good relations with the public

Monitoring Criteria: Analyze the success of associated public outreach programs and adjust public outreach efforts as appropriate.

## **8.10 Training of Natural Resource Personnel**

A guiding philosophy of this INRMP is to take an ecosystems approach to managing the natural resources present on the KSTC. The interdisciplinary approach taken by this INRMP follows an ecosystems model, in which all appropriate components are integrated by their function. This section addresses the KSTC's goal of being a leader in Installation and natural resource management within the KSARNG and the Army. Ecosystem management is emphasized because it is recognized that the mission of the KSARNG is inextricably linked to local, regional, and global ecological integrity. Sustaining ecosystem integrity is also the best way to protect biodiversity, ensure sustainable use, and minimize the effort and cost of management. Native and natural communities, and the processes that sustain them, are unique expressions of the evolutionary and geological histories that are essential to sustaining current system function and resilience. While habitat that has the potential to dramatically alter ecosystem form and function is limited at the KSTC, it is still a priority at the KSTC to manage according to this paradigm. The following natural resource training (NRT) goals have been developed for the KSTC:

### **NRT-1: Expanding the Knowledge of the KSARNG Natural Resource Staff**

Objective: Continue to provide training opportunities for KSARNG environmental program staff.

Projects: 1. Attend NGB natural resource training and natural resource conferences and workshops specific to rangeland management when available

Monitoring Criteria: This concern will be monitored through type and frequency of attended technical workshops and conferences.

## **9. Implementation**

This INRMP has been developed for the KSARNG to use as a primary tool for planning and integrating natural resources management activities into the military mission. Currently, the KSARNG environmental office and KSTC personnel are responsible for natural resource management responsibilities at the KSTC that will be necessary to implement this INRMP. Additional sources of temporary labor (hired with term limitations), could be utilized to augment current staff, such as seasonal employees (e.g., grounds maintenance summer hires). Outside agency reimbursable hires and Guardsman, Reservists, or Active Duty Army personnel assigned to the KSTC on temporary duty are another source of supplemental labor.

Implementation of a number of projects discussed in this INRMP will require active outside assistance. The outside assistance may come from state and federal agencies, private consortiums and organizations, universities, and/or contractors. Using these resources is the most efficient and cost-effective method for acquiring expertise on a temporary basis. Some parties will be reimbursed for their assistance, as agreed based on Memorandums of Understandings (MOUs), Memorandums of Agreements (MOAs), and contractual agreements, whereas others will supply their assistance in accordance with cooperative agreements. The KSARNG and the KSTC Range Control Staff should assess the level of additional resources necessary to fully implement this INRMP during the annual review process and determine the extent to which outside assistance will be required. An implementation table has been developed to assist the INRMP Working Group in the carrying out of the goals outlined in Chapter 8. The table displays potential staffing needs and potential subcontractor costs for each goal. The table can be found in Appendix G.

### **9.1 Work Plans**

Work plans and projects are integral to the successful implementation of this INRMP. Work plans may change with time as work requirements change and projects are completed on time, ahead of schedule, or behind schedule, or work plans are significantly changed due to mission changes. All work plans and subsequent projects will revolve around the best management practices to support the mission and ensure ecosystem management.

### **9.2 Natural Resource Management Staffing**

Currently, the KSARNG Environmental Branch office and KSTC personnel are responsible for natural resource management responsibilities at the KSTC that will be necessary to implement this INRMP. Additional staff, including temporary labor, could be utilized to augment current staff, such as seasonal employees (e.g., grounds maintenance summer hires). Outside agency reimbursable hires and Guardsman, Reservists, or Active Duty Army personnel assigned to the KSTC on temporary duty are another source of supplemental labor.

Implementation of a number of projects discussed in this INRMP will require active outside assistance. The outside assistance may come from state and federal agencies, private consortiums and organizations, universities, and contractors. Using these resources is the most

efficient and cost-effective method for acquiring expertise on a temporary basis. Some parties will be reimbursed for their assistance, as agreed based on MOUs, MOAs, and contractual agreements, whereas others will supply their assistance in accordance with cooperative agreements. The INRMP Working Group should assess the level of additional resources necessary to fully implement this INRMP during the annual review process and determine the extent to which outside assistance will be required.

### **9.3 Annual Coordination Requirements**

The DoD Supplemental Guidance states that each INRMP “must be reviewed as to operation and effect by the parties thereto on a regular basis, but not less than every five years” according to SAIA. This revised INRMP was developed using an interdisciplinary approach; information has been gathered from the KSARNG and the KSTC Range personnel, as well as other federal, state and local agencies and special interest groups with an interest in the management of natural resources at the KSTC.

Per DoD policy, the KSARNG reviews the INRMP annually in cooperation with KDWPT and the USFWS. The KSARNG will coordinate with the agencies annually to determine if changes or issues indicate the need for a meeting. If warranted, a meeting will be held at the KSTC with KDWPT and the USFWS and will be documented with meeting minutes. If a meeting is not necessary, any conversations will be documented via email correspondence or Record of Communication (ROC). Annual reviews shall verify that:

- Current information of all conservations and decisions is available
- All “must fund” projects and activities have been budgeted for and implementation is on schedule
- All required trained natural resources positions are filled or are in the process of being filled. Projects and activities for the upcoming year have been identified and included in the INRMP. An updated project list does not necessitate revising the INRMP
- All required coordination has occurred
- All significant changes to the Installation’s mission requirements or its natural resources have been identified

Appendix H of this revised INRMP has been reserved for documents that have been generated during Annual Coordination.

### **9.4 Monitoring INRMP Implementation**

Monitoring and evaluation are the heart of adaptive management and act as a check for implementation of the INRMP. Although the INRMP establishes direction for 2017-2021, it may

take longer to adequately address some goals and desired future conditions. Monitoring determines whether:

- Projects are implemented in compliance with INRMP, ARNG, and DoD requirements
- Standards and guidelines are followed
- Standards and guidelines are effective
- Goals and objectives are met
- Assumptions, relationships, and decisions are valid, considering new information or changing conditions

Implementation monitoring is pertinent to this INRMP. Implementation monitoring, the most basic monitoring level, determines whether or not projects and activities are designed and conducted in compliance with the INRMP and other directions. Implementation work plans and environmental assessment documents will track whether projects comply with the INRMP and have been completed.

Because of the dynamic nature of natural resources and the mission, there are expected variations in need during the course of a normal year. Some projects may be moved to a higher priority status than originally planned and some may have to be dropped totally as systems change or work priorities change. This INRMP implementation and monitoring effort will include these and other changes, ensure they are reviewed and documented, and alter INRMP planning, if necessary, to fit the current ecosystem and military mission needs.

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## APPENDIX D: BIOLOGICAL MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

DPW-FEZ

9 November 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultation for Proposed Updates to Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan

1. The purpose of this Proposed Action is to update the current Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Salina, Saline County, Kansas.
2. This Proposed Action requires an internal Section 7 review and effects determination for the presence or potential habitat of federally-listed species as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. This project includes amendment of the 2011 INRMP to include current KSTC land use and training practices.
3. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Ecological Field Services Office in Manhattan, Kansas has approved the following lists of federally-listed species and critical habitat for Saline County:

Threatened, Endangered, and Species in Need of Conservation, Saline County, Kansas			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Present (Y/N)	Determination
<i>Mammals</i>			
Northern long-eared bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Y	No effect
<i>Birds</i>			
Whooping crane	<i>Grus americana</i>	Y	No effect

4. Review of species surveys for the facility location listed above has shown that none of the federally-listed species, or their habitat, have been documented at the KSTC. Therefore, the KSARNG has determined "no effect" will occur as a result of the Proposed Action. Any changes in the area of potential effect or described actions in the INRMP will require additional ESA Section 7 consultation review for effect analysis and determination.
5. Points of contact for this action is the undersigned at (785) 646-1154.

Sincerely,

Sam Mryyan, Ph.D.  
Chief, Environmental Management Branch  
Kansas Army National Guard

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## APPENDIX E: TRIBAL MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS KANSAS  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
2722 SW TOPEKA BOULEVARD  
TOPEKA, KS 66611

DPW-FEZ

9 November 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Tribal Consultation for the Updated Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan

1. Tribal consultation was initiated via formal letter submitted by the Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) to three federally-recognized tribes recorded as having cultural affiliation and interest with the Salina, Kansas region on 27 December 2017.

2. The three tribes invited to participate as consulting parties were:

Osage Nation (federally-recognized)

Kaw Nation (federally-recognized)

Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (federally-recognized)

3. The KSARNG received one response from the Osage Nation on 25 January 2018. This response requested a tribal coordination meeting with all three tribes present to discuss the proposed updates to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan. However, the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes and Kaw Nation did not indicate desire to have further consultation regarding the Proposed Action.

4. An informal meeting with the Osage Nation did not result in any comments or information specific to the Proposed Action. As a result, additional coordination letters were submitted to each of the three tribes on 14 August 2018 and 17 September 2018. These letters were sent to each tribe using US Postal Service Certified Mail. Confirmation of receipt was received by the KSARNG for each letter sent; however, no written comments were provided by the tribes.

5. Points of contact for this action is the undersigned at (785) 646-1154.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Mryyan".

Sam Mryyan, Ph.D.

Chief, Environmental Management Branch  
Kansas Army National Guard

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)  
FOR THE REVISED  
INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN  
KANSAS TRAINING CENTER  
SALINA, KANSAS**

The Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate potential environmental, socioeconomic, and cultural effects of the revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Kansas Training Center (KSTC) in Salina, Kansas. This EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, 42 US Code § 4321 to 4370e), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (CEQ Regulations, 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and 32 CFR Part 651 (Environmental Analysis of Army Actions, Final Rule, 29 March 2002). As set forth in Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 5105.77, National Guard Bureau (NGB), the NGB is a joint activity of the DoD and as such must comply with the NEPA.

**1. Description of Proposed Action and Alternative**

**Proposed Action** – The Proposed Action is to approve and implement the revised INRMP at KSTC, which collectively includes numerous tasks for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 through FY 2024, which are detailed in Table 1 and in Appendix C of the EA. This INRMP is a revision to the existing INRMP adopted in 2011 and is consistent with the military use of the KSTC and the requirements of the Sikes Act. The Proposed Action would carry out a coordinated and integrated program to provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources at the Kansas Training Center, located in Salina, Kansas. Implementation of the program elements of the revised INRMP will support the KSARNG's continuing requirement to ensure the safety and efficiency of the mission at KSTC, practice sound resource stewardship, and comply with environmental policies and regulations. The revision is needed due to the relocation of two firing ranges, as well as the expansion of a third firing range; the revisions are also intended to cover increased Blackhawk helicopter use on site. The revised INRMP provides a comprehensive overview of KSTC's natural resources, and establishes goals, objectives, strategies, projects, and best management practices for the management of natural resources that are consistent with the military mission, which is the training of soldiers. Specific projects are identified to accomplish the objectives of the INRMP for a five-year period.

The INRMP provides a strategy of planned projects and programs to integrate the entirety of the KSTC's natural resource program with ongoing mission activities, allows for identification of potential conflicts between the KSTC's mission and natural resources, and identifies compliance actions necessary to maintain the availability of mission-essential properties and acreage. In accordance with the SAIA (16 USC §670a *et seq*), INRMPs are updated annually and revised every five years. Tasks comprising

the Proposed Action fall under 10 program areas for the KSTC: Fish and Wildlife Management; Threatened and Endangered Species Management; Wetlands, Streams, and Deep Water Habitat Management; Prairie and Woodland Management; Migratory Bird Management and, Invasive Species Management; Land Management; Agricultural Out- Leasing; and Public Outreach and Training.

**Alternatives Considered** – The scope of the EA included descriptions and evaluation of two alternatives. In addition to the Preferred Action Alternative, a No Action Alternative, was considered for detailed analysis. The Preferred Action Alternative provides the best practical option for natural resources management activities consistent with the KSARNG's training mission, and provides for the stewardship of natural resources consistent with the Sikes Act and Army Policy.

Under the No Action Alternative, the KSARNG would continue to operate under the current non-compliant 2011 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan. While the No Action Alternative would not satisfy the purpose of or need for the Proposed Action, this alternative was retained to provide a comparative baseline against which to analyze the effects of the Proposed Action, as required in the CEQ Regulations (40 CFR Part 1502.14). The No Action Alternative reflects the status quo and serves as a benchmark against which the effects of the Proposed Action can be evaluated.

## **2. Environmental Analysis**

The potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action are fully described in the EA. The EA identifies the environmental resources that could be affected by the Proposed Action, and determines the significance of the impacts, if any, to each of these resources. Based on the EA's analysis, the KSARNG determined that the known and potential adverse impacts from the Proposed Actions on land use, air quality, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, threatened and endangered species, socioeconomics, infrastructure, and hazardous and toxic materials and wastes would not be significant. The Proposed Action would also have no significant adverse effects on cultural resources or environmental justice considerations.

## **3. Mitigation**

No mitigation measures will be necessary to reduce potential adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. The KSARNG will implement appropriate Best Management Practices and any applicable KSARNG guidelines. Additionally, the KSARNG will obtain any required permits from local, state, and federal regulators prior to implementation of specific projects.

## **4. Regulations**

The Proposed Action will not violate NEPA, the CEQ Regulations, 32 CFR 651, or any other Federal, state or local environmental regulations.

## **5. Commitment to Implementation**

The National Guard Bureau (NGB) and KSARNG affirm their commitment to implement this EA in accordance with NEPA. Implementation is dependent on funding. The KSARNG and the NGB's Installations and Environment Directorate will ensure that adequate funds are requested in future years' budgets to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in this EA.

## **6. Public Review and Comment**

The EA and FONSI was made available for public review and comment from **DAY MONTH YEAR to DAY MONTH YEAR**, at the locations listed in the draft EA's public notice. No public comments were received. **XX** comments were received.

## **7. Finding of No Significant Impact**

After careful review of the EA, I have concluded that implementation of the Proposed Action would not generate controversy or have a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment. The FNSI will be signed and the action will be implemented. This analysis fulfills the requirements of NEPA and the CEQ regulations. An Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared, and the National Guard Bureau is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact.

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Date

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WILLIAM M. MYER  
COL, GS  
I&E, Army National Guard